

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
305 Livingston St, Filley, NE
Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
February 28, 2021

MASKS ARE REQUIRED - PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Parking lot – service can be heard on radio station 107.1 FM. Facebook @ American Lutheran Church - Filley, NE. Financial contributions can be brought to Sunday morning worship or can be forwarded to American Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 66, Filley, NE 68357. You may also do on-line giving at www.filleylutheranchurch.com.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water, pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

Forgive our sins. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace by the saving love of Jesus Christ and the wisdom and power of God. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

All: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)

READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MESSAGE

Pastor LuRae

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord of the Dance"

(Please hum or sing softly)

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun. And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun. And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had My birth.

Chorus: **Dance then wherever you may be. "I am the Lord of the Dance," said He. "And I'll lead you all wherever you may be. And I'll lead you all in the dance," said He.**

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow Me. I danced for the fishermen, for James and John. They came with Me and the dance went on. (Chorus)

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame. The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung Me on high. And they left Me there on a cross to die. (Chorus)

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by 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.

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 THE PEOPLE

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer Jesus taught 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.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Lift High the Cross"

(Please hum or sing softly)

Chorus: Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim. Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1. Come Christians follow where our captain trod, our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

(Chorus)

2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.

(Chorus)

"Lift High the Cross," Words and Music by Kitchin/Newbolt/Nicholson, ©1974 Hope Publishing Company, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-713000.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Tanner Schmidt, Delores Baehr, Dustin Fritch, our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Kailor Fritch, Karen Mortensen (Feb. 28), Duane Ideus (Feb. 29), Decker Bohling, Kason Virden (Mar. 3), Timothy Crocker (Mar. 5), Scott Nelson (Mar. 6).

THIS MORNING, WE CELEBRATE THESE BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES:

Peyton & Avery Keedy, children of Adam & Kenya Keedy, were received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 2, 2019.

Avery Peterson, daughter of Andrew and Ashley Peterson, was received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 12, 2020.

Sofia and Ellie Snyder, children of Mike & Michelle Snyder, were received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on March 1, 2020.

We pray for God's richest blessings on these families.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP - Wednesday, March 3. Midweek Lenten services are held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Our emphasis this year is "Bible People: Monologues for Lent". Each Wednesday evening, there will be a portrayal of a biblical figure by a member of our congregation. It is a great series – hope you will be able to make these worship services part of your Lenten journey!

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR THRIVENT CALENDAR? Look over the projects and see if there is something you would like to support. Or if you have an idea for church, school or community, let Carol or Betty know and we will try and get you going. Information will come out the month before to explain each project and what will be needed. Let's see how many cards we can use this year helping others!!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA: We are trying something different for our March WELCA meeting. We will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10. Brunch will be served. Please wear your masks – social distancing will be observed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School begins each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and is held from approximately 9:45-10:30 a.m. Classes will be divided between Preschool-1st grade and Second-Fifth grade. We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday and would prefer to have parents of students. **Please sign the sheet in the narthex for the Sundays that you are willing to help.**

HELP NEEDED: We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Also, blankets for hemming. Thank you for your ministry!

PREPARE FOR A SEASON OF HOPE: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS IN LENT

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1-3

Lutheran World Relief has issued a call for help in the form of Personal Care Kits. They are critically short of these in this pandemic time.

This season of Lent, American Lutheran will walk with people around the world afflicted by the pandemic, war, displacement and poverty by collecting and assembling Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Each week, please bring in the featured kit item to Sunday morning or Wednesday evening worship so that we can reach out as Christ's healing hand in the world. You can use the following schedule or bring them in any order you wish. There will be a container in the narthex for your donations. These are the items we will be collecting:

First Week of Lent – February 21/24: One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x 40" & 52" x 27"), dark color recommended.

Second Week of Lent – February 28/March 3: Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap (3-5 ounces each) 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel-size bars.

Third Week of Lent – March 7/10: One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging. Multi-packs may be used. Do not provide toothpaste; it will be provided by LWR.

Fourth Week of Lent – March 14/17: One **sturdy** comb. Remove packaging.

Fifth Week of Lent – March 21/24: One metal nail clippers (attached file optional). Remove packing

Palm Sunday – March 28: Any items that we are short of (we'll let you know through bulletins and email!)

SUNMART RECEIPTS: Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts!

SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called “Support Our Schools and Churches.” All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our first goal of \$150,000 and received the first check for \$1000, so now we are starting over again! You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY: American Lutheran Church gathers food donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. The Food Pantry serves all of Gage County. If you would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall at any time. Special items needed at this time are Chunky Soup, Catsup, Mustard, Jelly, Sugar, Flour, Pop Tarts, Popcorn, Fruit snacks, Snack crackers. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU** for your continued support to this ministry!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at smahleris@gmail.com.

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on Facebook and on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com with your email address.

WORSHIP HELPERS:

Council – Dave Norton-President, Virgil Jobman-Vice President, Carol Frerichs-Secretary, Brenda Hippen-Treasurer, Linda Searcey-at large

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Brad Frerichs

Accompanist – Carlyne Wolken