

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 14, 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

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?

We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask. come near, people of God!

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

GATHERING HYMN: "When Israel Was in Egypt's Land" WOV #670, vv. 1,2,6

(please hum or sing softly)

1. When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go; oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go.

Refrain: Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go!

2. The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go; to lead the children of Israel through, let my people go. Refrain

6. Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go; and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual. Public Domain

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We read in the Gospel lesson for today that Jesus is God's light that has come into the world to penetrate the darkness.

C: We are told that we need to look to this light. We need to walk in this light.

P: We are told that it has long been the tendency of people to love the darkness rather than the light.

C: We confess that we see darkness all around us in our world. We confess that the darkness has a pervasive nature...it creeps in on us.

P: We confess that we can use the darkness to cover our sins...saying that everyone else does it.

C: The darkness can become such a part of our lives that we come to think of it as light.

P: We ask that God not give up on us...

C: We ask that God not give up on the darkness of our lives...the darkness of our world.

P: We need the light of God. We need to open our minds and hearts to his light. May God have mercy on our souls.

C: May God have mercy on our souls.

P: Good News comes from the Gospel lesson for today. We are told...

C: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

P: On that promise, 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

All: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

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

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world

might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

MESSAGE

Pastor LuRae

HYMN OF THE DAY: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” LBW #294, vv.1-3

(Please hum or sing softly)

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood; when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Public Domain

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.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. 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

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: "Onward Christian Soldiers" LBW #509, vv. 1,3,4

(Please hum or sing softly)

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe; forward into battle, see, his banners go!

Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

3. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the church of Jesus constant will remain; gates of hell can never 'gainst the church prevail. We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. Refrain

4. Onward, then, you faithful, join our happy throng; blend with ours your voices in the triumph song. Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the king. We through countless ages with the angels sing: Refrain

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924. Public Domain

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, our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Lee Lenner, Aylee Remmenga (Mar 15), Alez Nouzovsky, Amber Wehrbein (Mar 17), Whitney Antons (Mar 20).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Myron & Kendra Lienemann (3-19-94).

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP: Wednesday, March 17. 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. This Wednesday, March 17, will be Peter’s mother-in-law, portrayed by Carol Frerichs. It is a great series – hope you will be able to make these worship services part of your Lenten journey!

CONFIRMATION for Kellen Anderson will be held next Sunday, March 21.

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!!

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!)

MINISTRY DOLLARS THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE DESIGNATION: The deadline for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2020 is 3/31/2021. If you are an eligible Thrivent member please consider directing some or all of your Thrivent Choice Dollars to American Lutheran Church. You can do it online or by calling 1-800-847-4836 and saying “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt. If you have any questions you may contact Thrivent or a council member.

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 – Virgil Jobman

Accompanist – Sandy Mahler