

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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020

PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Radio frequency will be announced. 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 (Based on Psalm 119:129-136)

P: We approach you, O Lord, with gratitude.

C: Your word to us...and for us...has always been for our own benefit.

P: We know in our souls that it is best for us if we keep your word.

C: The unfolding of your words gives light and understanding...even to the simple of heart.

P: We long to hear your words. We long to find rest within.

C: Be patient with us, Lord. Turn to us and be gracious.

P: Look on us as you look on those who love and keep your word.

C: Keep steady our steps and encourage us to live by your promises.

P: Hold us steady in the midst of the wrongs and hurts of our world that often come to our doorsteps.

C: May your face shine upon us. Do not despair of teaching us your way.

P: From my eyes...tears stream down because so many do not know or listen to your words.

C: We approach you O Lord with gratitude.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the Gospel lesson for today Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hidden in a field...

C: And to a precious pearl discovered by a merchant who sells all he has in order to have it as his own.

P: When a treasure is found, when a pearl of great price is discovered...

C: There is joy!

P: Jesus also compares the kingdom of heaven to a fisherman who casts a net into the water. When the net is full, it is pulled from the water and the good separated from the bad.

C: We know the kingdom of heaven has great value, but confess there is so much about the kingdom we do not understand.

P: We want to be among those God considers 'good.' Worth keeping!

C: We confess that we too often value the things of this world more highly than the kingdom.

P: God have mercy.

C: Christ have mercy.

P: God does have mercy upon us! Our desire for forgiveness is heard by God. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake forgives us all our sins. 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.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

READINGS

Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

“Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew’s gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people’s lives.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the

bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

MESSAGE:

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth.

Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; 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: "Beautiful Savior" *(Words printed for meditation/reflection only - no singing.)*

1. Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be Thine!

Public Domain

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

"Permission to reprint/podcast/stream portions of this service obtained from One License with license #A-724367, CCLI with license #2497574 and Augsburg Fortress License #13855-L.

Excerpts of this service are taken by permission from "Worship Resources, Making it Work in the Parish" by Rev. Jerry Nelson.

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!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dustin Fritch

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Rexton Busing (July 27), Andrew Peterson (July 29), Tanner Bowhay (July 30), Kristen Remmenga (July 31).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Jim & Carol Frerichs (7-30-66), Ervin & Elva Parde (8-1-48).

CONGRATULATIONS to **Ervin and Elva Parde** who will celebrate their 72nd Wedding Anniversary this Saturday, August 1.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew and Mallory Hubka who were married at ALC/Filley on Saturday, July 25. Drew is the son of Chris and Leslie Lenner and the grandson of Gene and Velda.

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.

THANK YOU to everyone who supports Community Food Pantry. Please note that they could use financial support rather than food items at this time.

WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR SCHOOL KITS (new items only) for both globally through Lutheran World Relief and for local needs. Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. There is a box in the narthex for your items.

Each School Kit needs:

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener; One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); One box of 16 or 24 crayons

Please help fill our bags and be a part of this ministry. Thank you!!!

THERE ARE ALSO QUILTS to be hemmed and quilt blocks to be sewed together in the fellowship hall. If you would like these delivered to you, please contact Carol Frerichs.

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on Facebook and on our website, fileylutheranchurch.com.

They 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. We will try to send these out by Thursday of each week so that you can print it out if you desire.



Bishop Maas has challenged each of us as congregations and individuals to do one thing together to start conversations about racism. In August, you are invited to a Zoom book study and video series based on the book **ONE-Unity in a Divided World** by Deidra Riggs.

In September of 2018, Southwood Lutheran Church in Lincoln launched a Small Group Study and Sermon Series based on this book. In partnership with Deidra, who lived in Lincoln for several years and was familiar with the church, video teaching segments were created along with this study guide. The Southwood people felt that her words were too powerful not to share with the world and so have made these videos and the study guide available for congregations to use. Changing the way we think and relate to others truly can unite us.

If you would like to take a look at the videos, you can find them here:

<https://www.southwoodlutheran.org/news-updates/oneunity-in-a-divided-world/>

Look for more information on this Book Study in coming bulletins. Now is a great time to order the book and start reading it. If you would like to order a book now, please let Sandy Mahler know by emailing smahleris@gmail.com or calling her at 402-688-4230. Leave a message if no one answers. We want every person who is interested to join in this book study, so we will purchase a book for you at no charge. If you are able to donate \$10 for the book, please put it in the offering marked "ONE".