

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 8, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska

Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 34:1-8)

P: ¹I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: ²My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

P: ³O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

C: ⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

P: ⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

C: ⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

P: ⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

C: ⁸O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

P: Come and worship - come as you are, for this is God's house—

C: a house of prayer for all people, and God welcomes each one who comes.

GATHERING HYMN: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" LBW 439

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

C: Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(All students, teachers, paras, school administrators, staff, bus drivers, and other school staff are asked to come forward.)

Dear God, as we get ready to start another year in school, we ask your blessing on these backpacks, and especially on these children who will wear them. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large; respect for teachers and students, that they may form healthy relationships; love for nature, that they may become caretakers of your creation; happiness when learning is easy and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard; faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.

We ask that you would protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school. As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each one of them to be used in your work in the world. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what.

We ask your blessings on teachers, paras, school administrators, staff and families of students: And bless, O Lord, all those who stand with these students. Whatever their task or role, guide them to do it in love and faithfulness to you, knowing that even the most ordinary task becomes extraordinary when it is done in your name. Give them strength for the days ahead. Give them patience with themselves and with others. Give them the gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, awe and wonder. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

And now will the congregation join in blessing the students and all who work with them, remembering the words of Psalm 121:

C: May the Lord keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:4-8

⁴[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL: John 6:35, 41-51

³⁵Jesus said to [the crowd,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of

Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Break Now the Bread of Life" LBW 235

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

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With (*Dominic, name/s, and*) all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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: **"On Our Way Rejoicing" LBW 260**

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: Arnold Baehr, Jody Illies, Henry Lenner, Ann Lenner, our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ruthie Fritzen, Hiedi Lenner (Aug. 8), Jordan Tyo (Aug. 14).

BELOVED REGISTRATIONS are on the table in the narthex or can be found on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Please get your registration in as early as possible so we know how many teachers, etc. we need to find. Thank you!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CIRCLE MEETING has been changed from August 4 to August 11, 9:30 a.m. at church.

BELOVED MEETING will be Wednesday, August 11, at 11:00 a.m.

AUGUST THRIVENT CARD PROJECT: **UNDIE MONTH!!!** Who would think that there would be a shortage of underwear!! But it is one item that families will do without buying. Please help support this project this month. Bring new men's, women's, and children's underwear through the month of August. Delores Huls is sponsoring the Thrivent card for this project.

PLEASE HELP FILL OUR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS!

School sales are on so please add the needed items to your shopping lists and bring them to church. Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies sometimes mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development. 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. Many of these school kits go to war torn countries where the children are affected through no fault of their

own. The bags are sent with no symbols for their own safety. All items should be new and in good condition.

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
One 2½" eraser

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

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex if you would be willing to host Fellowship Hour. As of now, we are serving individually bagged cookies/treats. Thank you for your 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!

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 goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about \$9,000.00. 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. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU for your continued support to this ministry!**

DEAR MEMBERS OF AMERICAN LUTHERAN: We are so appreciative of your generous donation! Mother to Mother Ministry will use these funds to continue helping those in need in our communities. Blessings!
Diane Courtney, Coordinator

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.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE, please call or text our Transitional Minister, Pastor Jensen at 402-768-3665.

WORSHIP HELPERS:

Transitional Minister – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

Council – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

Reader – Kierstin Rehrs

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video –

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler