

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 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 138)

P: I thank you, Lord, with all my heart. I sing praise to you this day.

C: We face your holy temple. We bow down and praise your name because of your constant love and faithfulness.

P: You answered me when I called to you. With your strength you strengthened me.

C: All the rulers in the world should praise you, Lord.

P: We will sing about what you have done. We will sing about your great glory.

C: Even though you are above us all...you care for the lowly.

P: When I am surrounded by troubles, you keep me safe.

C: You stand against our strongest enemies and seek to keep us safe.

P: You will keep your promises. Your work is eternal.

C: Complete the work you have begun. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The Gospel lesson for today is about Peter's great statement of faith...Peter says...

C: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

P: We know that these words were spoken by a disciple who had his share of mistakes. Peter is the one who denied Jesus three times. Peter is the one of whom Jesus said, "Get behind me Satan."

C: Peter had his shortfalls and we have ours.

P: In good times and bad Peter loved Jesus. When he denied him he was afraid for his own life.

C: When Jesus said, "Get behind me Satan," Peter was trying to talk Jesus out of going to Jerusalem to die.

P: We have our shortfalls...our sins. We claim to love Jesus, yet we don't always live that out.

C: We are mostly interested in saving ourselves rather than saving Jesus from pain and suffering.

P: We know how important it is to believe with all of our heart, mind and strength and yet we fall short. We can doubt and we can wander from God's highway.

C: Jesus says that he will build his church on the faith of his followers.

P: We confess that the church, even our own congregation, is weakened by our failures to believe fully in the living God.

C: Lord, have mercy on us.

P: 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: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

READINGS

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

MESSAGE:

Pastor Arden Dorn

HYMN OF THE DAY: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"
(*Words printed for meditation/reflection only - no singing.*)

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

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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

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

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God.

Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us.

According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us into this community, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead (*especially*). Bring us with them to our heavenly home. 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.**

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!

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

OUR THANKS to Pastor Arden Dorn for being our supply pastor this morning. It's great to have you back with us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Tristen Ray (Aug. 24), Anthony Hill (Aug. 27), Kellen Anderson (Aug. 28).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Brad & Susan Frerichs (8-24-91) and Aaron & Tiffany Robertson (8-25-12).

PLEASE NOTE: Worship service next Sunday, August 30, will begin at **10:00 a.m.** There will be an outdoor lunch served by our council following worship in honor of Pastor LuRae's 5th Ordination Anniversary. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

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.

FREE MASKS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST 250 PEOPLE beginning next Sunday, August 30. These masks come in grey and black and say FAITH > (*is greater than*) FEAR @ American Lutheran Church/Filley, NE. Be sure to get yours!



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 OUR GOAL OF 100 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. The items we are most in need of are:

70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"

blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

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, filleylutheranchurch.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.

WORSHIP HELPERS:

Council - Norm Flesner, Tanner Schmidt, Carol Frerichs, Dave Norton, Linda Searcey

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Accompanist – Carlyne Wolken