

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

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 30, 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](http://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 22, Psalm 71:12, Matthew 16:24-26, Mark 8:31-38)

P: We come to worship this morning from different places.

**C: O God, do not be far from us.**

P: We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

**C: O God, do not be far from us.**

P: We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

**C: O God, do not be far from us.**

P: We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

**C: O God, do not be far from us.**

P: "Deny yourselves."

**C: O God, do not be far from us.**

P: "Take up your cross."

**C: O God, do not be far from us.**

P: "Follow me."

**C: O God, we thank you for drawing near to us in this place, in our lives. Amen.**

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on **Spacious Faith**. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the Gospel lesson for today, Peter gets into trouble with Jesus. When Jesus told the disciples that he needed to go to Jerusalem to suffer and be killed, Peter was upset and objected.

**C: Jesus told Peter "Get behind me Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."**

P: Jesus saw Peter's concern as a temptation to step aside from God's mission for him. But it was out of love for Jesus that Peter objected.

**C: We confess that our love for others can sometimes be enabling of a way of life that is not good for them**

P: I confess that I can be tempted to hold back from saying to you what I believe God wants me to say because I do not want to hurt you... because I love you.

**C: We confess that we can take the easy way rather than God's way.**

P: We confess that we can 'go along' when those we love choose 'man's way over God's way.

**C: Those of us who have children or grandchildren often want to make things easy for them...and in doing so we can fail to encourage them to put God's way first in their lives.**

P: Jesus said "For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it."

**C: We confess that this can be a hard saying for us and yet we sense the truth of that message. Forgive us, Lord, for the resistance to your word that can be within us.**

P: We confess that we can resist putting you first.

**C: We believe that Jesus went to Jerusalem, suffered and died in order that our sins might be forgiven. 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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

#### READINGS

Reading: Romans 12:9-21 (NIV)

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

MESSAGE:

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Pass It On”

*(Words printed for meditation/reflection only - no singing.)*

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it. You spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I’ve found. You can depend on Him, it matters not where you’re bound. I’ll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know; The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on. I’ll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know; The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

“Pass It On,” words and music by Kurt Kaiser. ©1969 by Lexicon Music. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

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.

God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things.

Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, you give us everlasting life. In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light. In our remembering, give us a foretaste of the feast to come. 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.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

### *Invitation to Communion*

We are here because Jesus has called us –strangers and friends, members and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So, come, not because you understand, but because you are understood. Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you. Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

### *The Words of Institution*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### *Prayer of Consecration*

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love, and may this, the bread of life, bring healing of body, mind, and spirit. Through 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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Bev Weiss, Linda Searcey, Stanley Fritzen (Aug. 30), Fynleigh Kunza, Caden Searcey (Sept. 2), Helen Fritzen, Kendall Hallstrom (Sept. 5).

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** to Helen Fritzen who will celebrate her 92nd birthday on September 5. God's richest blessings be with you!

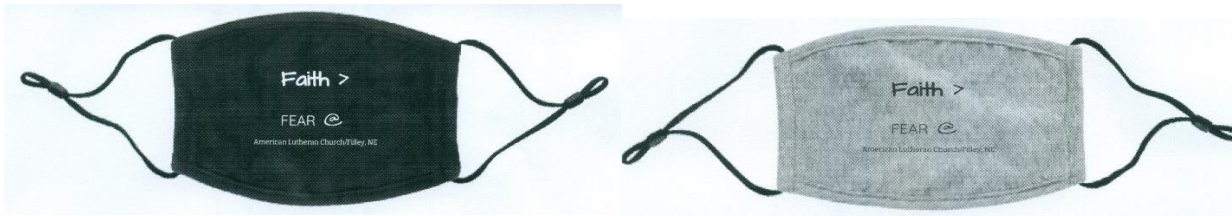
**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** to John & Lisa Sanders (9-6-03).

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** There will be a lunch following worship this morning in honor of Pastor LuRae's 5th Ordination Anniversary. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. Our thanks to Mike Baehr for furnishing the meat.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:** Theodore Scott McKernan is being welcomed into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism following our worship service this morning. Theodore is the son of Philippe and Melissa McKernan and was born July 9, 2020 at Beatrice, NE. His sponsors are Katrina Keebler and Kayla Stege. Welcome to your new family at American Lutheran, Theodore!

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS:** Thank you to everyone who donated items for the school kits. Cash donations are being accepted at this time to purchase the remaining needed items. Thank you for being part of this ministry.

**FREE MASKS TO THE FIRST 250 PEOPLE!** They come in grey and black and say FAITH > (*is greater than*) FEAR @ American Lutheran Church/Filley, NE. Be sure to get yours!



**COLLEGE ADDRESSES:** We will be sharing our college kids' addresses with you as we get them – in case anyone wants to send a card/note of encouragement or well wishes. If your child is in college, please send their address to [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com) Thank you!

MaKena Mayfield  
c/o Trinity Christian College  
6601 W. College Drive, RM #124  
Palos Heights, IL 60463

**LOCAL SCHOOL NEEDS:** The Lewiston National Honor Society is sponsoring a “comfort closet” this year for students. The closet will consist of personal hygiene products that students will be allowed to take and use at school or at home. The closet will be available for all students. The National Honor Society will decide how to take requests and distribute the products to the students. Products for the closet could include: deodorant, soaps, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, lotion, combs/brushes, etc. If you would like to donate toward this, there is a box in the narthex. We will also be checking with Freeman and Beatrice to see how we can help them.

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://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](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com).

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

**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](http://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](mailto: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** – Sandy Mahler