

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/RALLY SUNDAY

September 12, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 116)

P: Come, people of God! Let us offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and lift up his name in the presence of his people.

C: For God is gracious and merciful, full of compassion and love.

P: While we were still helpless, he came to save us.

C: Let us worship God together!

GATHERING HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine"

1. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine; Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Don't let Satan blow it out; I'm going to let it shine. Don't let Satan blow it out; I'm going to let it shine. Don't let Satan blow it out; I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. Hide it under a bush? Oh, no! I'm going to let it shine; Hide it under a bush? Oh, no! I'm going to let it shine; Hide it under a bush? Oh, no! I'm going to let it shine; Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4. Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine. Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine. Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the 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...

C: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BELOVED TEACHERS AND HELPERS

(All teachers and helpers are asked to stand up.)

P: God of Creation, you have gifted these leaders with teaching skills, creativity, and curiosity. We pray you would fill them with the power and compassion of your Holy Spirit. Fill them with energy and insight into your Word, the story of Your faithful heart.

Teachers & Helpers: You have not called us to be perfect but have called us to be faithful. You have not called us to be all-knowing but have called us to believe. We dedicate ourselves to the call and task of teaching. Grant us wisdom, patience and joy in our preparation and teaching of your Word.

Congregation: God of hope, guide each teacher as they study your Word. Strengthen the gifts you have given them, and energize their compassion. Remind us to find ways to support and encourage them throughout the year. May we share in their joy and times of difficulty.

ALL: We commit ourselves, each to our part, in this joyful task. May your steadfast and faithful love guide all we do. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

PRESENTATION OF LITTLE LAMBS AND BIBLES

(All those receiving Little Lambs, those receiving Bibles and their parents are invited to come forward.)

P: Blessed be your name, O Lord our God, You are the fount and source of every blessing! You have revealed yourself to your human creation in many and diverse ways. Look with delight upon these children today as we renew our commitment to read and remember You in the stories of our salvation. Help us to absorb its wisdom and live its inspired truth.

Parents: Receive the Word of God. Learn its stories and study its words. Its stories belong to us all, and these words speak to us all. They tell us who we are. They tell us that we belong to one another, for we are the people of God.

C: We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your church school classes, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word.

BACKPACK BLESSING

(All students and those associated with schools in any way are invited to come forward.)

P: Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students. They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them. Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. May these students be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day. We pray as well for the teachers, staff and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing and be reminded that this congregation surrounds them with love and care as well. We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day. **C: Amen.**

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

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" OSB 87, vv. 1,3,4

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger.

Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Bring healing to Jody, Henry, Ann, Dustin and the family of David Mortensen.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, You have given the Church the command to bring the children to You that they may find hope in the promise of everlasting life with You. Therefore, help and support our Sunday School and BeLoved staff as they assist our parents in nurturing the baptismal faith of Your lambs. You alone can preserve them in faith against all the evil influence of this world, yet You have given to us the task, the privilege, and the means to nurture the faith of all our children. You alone can create faith and hope and love in these children, yet You call men and women to teach Your holy Word. Bless the instruction that will be offered. May Your Word nourish and sustain all who hear it. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE 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: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" WOV 721, vv. 1-2

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: Dustin Fritch, Jody Illies, Henry Lenners, Ann Lenners, our shut-ins.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of David Mortensen, Norm & Karen Mortensen's son, who passed away September 4. David's funeral was at American Lutheran Church on September 9. We commend David to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Madison Baker (Sept. 12), Casey Howell, Megan Nelson (Sept. 13), Traci Baehr, Emily Bowhay, TJ Tremain (Sept. 14), Raynette Essman (Sept. 16), Mike Mayfield (Sept. 17).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Kent & Yvette Hippen (9-14-80), Scott & Jill Nelson (9-16-00).

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES:

Third Grade (engraved Bible): Sunday Bowhay, Sutton Creek, Rylynn Fritch, Marlie Fritzen, Hunter Keedy, Michael Schwandt, Westley Tremain, Kason Viriden

Kindergarten (Sparks Bible): Sarah Heideman, Brooklynn Meints, Leia Tyo, Emery Weyers

PRESENTATION OF LITTLE LAMBS

Preschool age children eligible to begin Sunday School will be recognized and will receive the Little Lambs from their Baptism and a Jesus Story Book Bible: Owen Robertson, Waylon Schultz and Ava Smith.

RALLY SUNDAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL is today! There will be Recognition of Little Lambs and Presentation of Bibles at worship and then at 10:30 a.m. join in the fun with games and real-life race cars! Beginning today, Sunday School will start each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and be held from approximately 9:45-10:30 a.m.

EVERYONE IS INVITED to stay for hamburgers, hotdogs and all the trimmings at 11 a.m. this morning as we celebrate Rally Sunday.

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BELOVED TEACHERS/STAFF will be held today. Our thanks to all who volunteer to work with children of American Lutheran and our community.

BELOVED BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15!! BELOVED REGISTRATIONS are on the table in the narthex or can be found on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com.

WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO HELP with the Stone Barn Christmas this year? There is room for so many talented people of all ages to help spread the good news of Jesus' birth! We need singers, readers, character portrayals, people to bring animals for our stable, etc. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 26, following church. Hope to see you there! Or contact Lodene at 402-520-2204. Thanks!

CONFIRMATION REUNION: Sunday, September 26. The classes of 1931, 1940, 1941, 1950, 1951, 1960, 1961, 1970, 1971, 1980, 1981, 1990, 1991, 2000, 2001, 2010 and 2011 will be the honored guests on Sept. 26. (Because of Covid-19, we will be honoring reunion classes for both 2020 and 2021.) Confirmands will be recognized at the 9:30 a.m. worship service and then invited to come to the Fellowship Hall to see displays and visit with fellow confirmands. A Windsor Loin meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for other members of American Lutheran who would like to attend the dinner. **PLEASE SIGN UP BY TODAY, SEPTEMBER 12.**

DESSERTS NEEDED: There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for those who would be willing to make a 9x13 dessert for the Confirmation Reunion on September 26. Thank you!

WE ARE LOOKING for hymnals, bibles, catechisms confirmation books, certificates, stoles, etc. that were used during the past 90 years. These will be put on display during the Confirmation Reunion and then returned to you. Please give Denise Blaker, Delores Huls, Jolene Huls, Arlys Jurgens, or Sandy Mahler your items by next Sunday, September 19. Thank you for sharing!

"TELLING OUR STORY": The congregation is asked to attend a special coffee hour in the Parish Hall on October 10 & October 17. As part of the Call Process in our search for a new congregational leader, the Call Committee is seeking your input about what characteristics we have and what you would consider significant traits for a new leader. Your input will be used to create a video that will be seen by Call Candidates and will be titled "Telling Our Story." The Call Committee will be directing our activities for these events. This is your opportunity to assist with our search for a new congregational leader!

URGENT NEED—COATS: Warmer Day is in urgent need of all sizes of coats. Because of last year's Covid, there is a shortage of coats to be distributed. They usually hold 4-5 coat drives in the area of need but will not be able to do that this year. Please leave coats here at church. Thank you!

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 **\$29,000.00**. 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!

WE WILL CONTINUE to gather can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house throughout the year. The container for them can be found in the narthex.

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 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:

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 – Carol Frerichs

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Brad Frerichs

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler

Fellowship: Rally Sunday Meal