

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

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 13, 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 Matthew 18 and Psalm 103)

P: With open arms You welcome all who call on Your name—who acknowledge You as Lord, and look to You in faith.

**C: No one stands outside the circle of Your mercy and love. And so we come to offer You our worship—to declare that You are our God, and that we are Your people,**

P: called and chosen by You from the very beginning.

**C: Through the presence of Your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see You here; open our minds to receive Your truth, and our mouths to speak and sing Your praise.**

P: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy

**C: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: For You alone are God—

**C: worthy of all praise and worship, now and to the end of time. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**All: O Lord of mercy, who resists the proud and receives the humble. We ask for honesty to accept responsibility for our errors. and to understand the reasons for our failures. We ask for the courage to make our confessions, to seek your forgiveness for our offenses, to make restitutions where possible, and to extend the same forgiveness to others that you extend to us. May we have the grace to submit our lives to Jesus Christ. For all our sins, O Lord, forgive 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: We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have forgiven us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love and forgiveness to others. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

## READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

MESSAGE:

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

## HYMN OF THE DAY: "Only By Grace"

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

Only by grace can we enter. Only by grace can we stand. Not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb. Into Your presence You call us, You call us to come. Into Your presence You draw us and now by Your grace we come. Now by Your grace we come.

Lord, if You mark our transgressions who would stand. Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. Lord, if You mark our transgressions who would stand. Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Only by grace can we enter. Only by grace can we stand. Not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb. Into Your presence You call us, You call us to come. Into Your presence You draw us and now by Your grace we come. Now by Your grace we come.

"Only By Grace," words and music by Gerrit Gustafson. © 1990 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook). All rights reserved. CCLI License #2497574

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; 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.**

## 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.

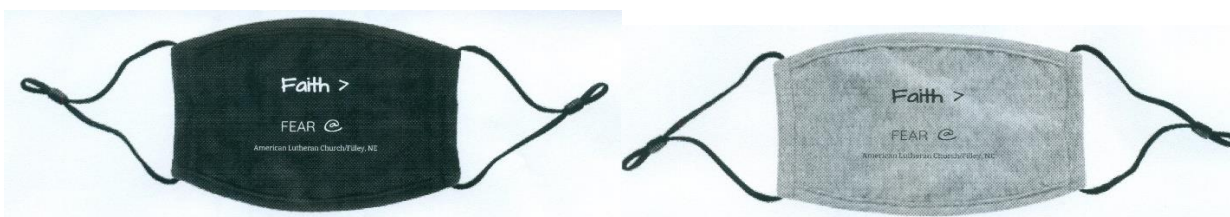
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Casey Howell, Megan Nelson (Sept. 13), Traci Baehr, Emily Bowhay, TJ Tremain (Sept. 14), Raynette Essman (Sept. 16), Mike Mayfield (Sept. 17), Isaac Frerichs, James Fritz (Sept. 19).

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

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:** Cayson Hayes Jensen is being welcomed into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this morning. Cayson is the son of Brandon Jensen and Jade Diehl and was born August 4, 2020 in Beatrice, NE. His sponsors are Hannah Blair, Samuel Gubbel and Danika Dorcey. Welcome to your new family at American Lutheran, Cayson!

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** A warm welcome to Brandon Jensen and Anthony Wester who are joining American Lutheran Church this morning.

**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!



**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.

**WORSHIP HELPERS:**

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

**PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter** – Brenda Hippen

**Accompanist** – Sandy Mahler