

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 19, 2021
American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska
Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

(Your offerings can be left in the offering plate found at the back of the church either before or after worship. Thank you.)

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 54)

Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

For the insolent have risen against me, the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them.

But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

He will repay my enemies for their evil. In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

With a freewill-offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

GATHERING HYMN: **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" WOVS 771, vv. 1-2**

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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...

C: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" ²⁰But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.⁴

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY

(The family of Cayson Jensen is invited to come forward. Children in the congregation are also invited to come forward.)

P: Cayson, a year ago you were washed in the waters of baptism. You were buried with Christ and raised with Christ. You were declared to be a child of God and you entered the family of Christ. We give thanks for your baptism and for all the promises of God. You never need to doubt that you are a beautiful and precious child of God.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, You loved children so much that you said: 'Whoever welcomes a child welcomes me'. Hear our prayers and, with your unfailing care, watch over this child. We ask that you bless Cayson and all of us as we remember and celebrate his baptism. Continue to work your grace in Cayson's life and help him to be your faithful disciple all the days of his life. When he has grown to maturity, may he be fervent in faith, strong in hope and generous in love. May the God of gentleness and love bless Cayson as we remember and celebrate his baptism and watch over him always. Amen.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Children of the Heavenly Father"** LBW 474

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.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Bring healing to Henry and Ann and those we name in our hearts and minds. Bring wholeness when the path forward seems bleak.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today, especially the family of Gary Jurgens. Shine your grace on all your saints. 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS: "**Lamb of God**" p. 72, LBW 203, LBW 214, LBW 501

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: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

CLOSING HYMN: "**Sent Forth by God's Blessing**" LBW 221

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: Henry Lenner, Ann Lenner, our shut-ins.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Gary Jurgens, brother of Velda (Gene) Lenner, who passed away September 5, 2021. Graveside services were held Thursday, September 9. We commend Gary to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to James Fritz (Sept. 19), Yvette Hippen, Ann Lenner (Sept. 20), Denise Blaker, Mark Pobanz (Sept. 22), Jon Janssen, Rhetlee Shufeldt (Sept. 24).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Norm & Karen Mortensen (9-20-58), Galen & Dana Steinacher (9-20-14), Derek & Alycia Fritzen (9-22-07).

CONGRATULATIONS to Norm & Karen Mortensen who will be celebrating their 63rd Wedding Anniversary on September 20. God's richest blessings be with you!

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY: Today we celebrate the Baptism Anniversary of Cayson Hayes Jensen who was received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on September 13, 2020. We pray for God's richest blessings on Cayson and his family.

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!

THE CHURCH CHICKS will be meeting at the church on Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 9:30 to prepare meals for our shut-ins. Everyone is welcomed to come help to prepare and deliver meals. Hope to see you then.

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 following worship. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for members of American Lutheran who would like to attend the dinner.

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 let Denise Blaker, Delores Huls, Jolene Huls, Arlys Jurgens, or Sandy Mahler know if you have something that we could use. 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!

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 – Linda Searcey

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Brad Frerichs

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler

Fellowship: Danelle Lenners