

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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 25)

We lift up our souls to you, Holy God.

We trust the Lord with our past, present, and future.

Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways.

Guide our every move, Holy One,

that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy.

Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.

Together, let us worship God!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We
have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the
sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we
may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

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: Gracious Lord, we are privileged to be your sons and daughters. May we be found faithful in our obedience to the mind and way of your son, our Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

READINGS

Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

MESSAGE:

Pastor Terry Cosier

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Change My Heart O God"

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

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like You. You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God, make it ever true; Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. (Repeat)

"Change My Heart, O God," words and music by Eddie Espinosa. ©1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. 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!

WELCOME AND THANK YOU to Pastor Terry Cosier for being our supply pastor this morning. It's good to have you back with us.

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

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of LaVerne Speckmann, Pastor LuRae's father, who passed away Friday, September 18. His funeral was held Tuesday at St. James Lutheran, Humboldt. We commend LaVerne to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Coryn Kennedy Remmenga is being welcomed into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this morning. Coryn is the daughter of Kellee and Kristin Remmenga and was born October 2, 2019 in Salina, KS. Her sponsors are Timothy and Samantha Sweeney. Welcome to your new family at American Lutheran, Coryn!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Cassandra Kagy, Kynsleigh Kunza (Sept 27), Duane Lenners, Eileen Schmale (Sept 30), Lorin Bartels, Brynn Jobman, Velda Lenners (Oct. 1), Coryn Remmenga, Spencer Knoche, Kendra Lienemann (Oct. 2), Payton Heideman (Oct. 3).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Garold & Denise Blaker (9-29-90).

SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin on Sunday, October 4, with Rally Sunday on October 11. Sunday School will start each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and be held from approximately 9:45-10:30 a.m. Classes will be divided between Preschool-1st grade and Second-Fifth grade. We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday and would prefer to have parents of students. **Please sign the sheet in the narthex for the Sundays that you are willing to help.**

JOIN US FOR TRUNK OR TREAT – Saturday, October 31, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at American Lutheran, Filley. Candy, games, food and prizes! Reserve your trunk at 402-239-0049.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA -- We hope to resume WELCA meetings in October. Please watch bulletin announcements for possible new time, place and date, as the fellowship hall may be occupied during our usual time.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL would like to thank everyone that contributed to the video upgrade project. To date we have raised \$9200.00. We especially thank the families of Harold Huls and Robert Baehr who have given memorial funds toward the project as with these generous gifts we were able to reach the goal of completing the purchase of the equipment. Total cost of the project was \$7204.68. We are receiving a proposal to have a review of our current audio equipment which would eliminate unneeded equipment, possible upgrade to newer technology audio equipment and installation of a power rack which would take the place of three power strips currently used to connect all of our current equipment.

We thank Delores Huls for covering the cost for the building of a new table upon which we can permanently set up the video and power point equipment.

The Council is always amazed how our congregation responds to a request for financial support for a project.

FREE MASKS: If you haven't received your free mask yet, be sure to get one this Sunday. They come in grey and black and say FAITH > (*is greater than*) FEAR @ American Lutheran Church/Filley, NE.

THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed toward the Local School Needs project.

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.

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.

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.

WORSHIP HELPERS:

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

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Brad Frerichs

Accompanist – Carlyne Wolken