

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 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: (inspired by Isaiah 5: 1-7, Psalm 80)

Most Gracious God we greet you once again in this sacred space.

**We have come because we need to be reminded
of your love and your expectations for our living.**

We are like the vine you planted, watered and protected.

We know in our hearts that we need, want and desire your presence in our lives.

So we come in prayer

and listen for your Word to speak to our hearts and reveal again your desires for us. Amen.

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: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

READINGS

Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14 (NIV)

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

MESSAGE:

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Trust and Obey”

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

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way!

While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay;

not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

3. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way;

what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, You are a God of compassion and love.

Time after time we have experienced your care and provision.

Time after time You've answered our prayers and met our needs—

often in ways we could never have dreamed possible. We praise You for Your faithful love toward us.

Because we have known Your love, we come to You with confidence, offering our prayers for the world that You love. We see so much pain and suffering; so much anger and frustration and despair.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs around us. But we continue to bring our prayers to You in faith, because we know that nothing is impossible for You.

You are the God who rained down bread from heaven, and made water flow from a rock in the desert; the God who resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead, and who brings new life and hope to all who believe. For You, all things are possible.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the regions of our world caught up in violence and threats of violence:

We pray for honesty and respect in those seeking elected office.

We pray that as constituents, our hearts and minds may be open to respectfully consider that which benefits the greater good of your kingdom.

Help us to take on the attitude of Christ in both words and deeds.

Because nothing is impossible for You, O God,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who live with serious illness, those with chronic pain, those without access to proper medical care, those for whom treatment is no longer an option.

Because nothing is impossible for You, O God,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us a different way to live—

the way of deep humility and obedience. You've called us to love one another, and to work together with one heart and mind, balancing our needs with the needs of those around us.

Give us courage to follow faithfully, and with integrity—with actions that bear witness to the words we speak, and worship that overflows into our daily tasks and relationships— so that our lives will bring glory and honor to You, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Here at this table, Jesus is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. Those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a fuller life, for a better world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

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

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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Prayers of Intercession - Christine Longhurst, re:Worship

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.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Bernadine “Bonnie” Anthofer, Denise (Stan) Fritzen’s mother, who passed away on Friday, Sept. 25. Bonnie’s funeral was in Coon Rapids, IA on Sept. 29. We commend Bonnie to God’s care and ask His blessings on her family and friends.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Tillman Robert Bowhay is being welcomed into God’s family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this morning. Tillman is the son of Tanner & Emily Bowhay and was born April 22, 2020 in Beatrice, NE. His sponsor is Jill Rasmussen. Welcome to your new family at American Lutheran, Tillman!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: A warm welcome to Jordan Junker and Courtney Eltiste who are joining American Lutheran this morning. Jordan comes to us from St. Paul, Beatrice and Courtney from St. Peter’s, Elk Creek.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Kelsay Bledsaw (Oct. 4), Jacob Lenner, Galen Parde (Oct. 5), Kylie Lenner (Oct. 6), Angela Reynoso, Rodney Schmale, Glenda Van Eperen (Oct. 7), Cayd Wilgers (Oct. 10).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Allen & Mary Ann Harms (10-4-81), Russell & Kelly Harms (10-6-07), Mike & Michelle Snyder (10-7-17), Dean & Michelle Baker (10-9-99).

SUNDAY SCHOOL begins this morning 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: WELCA will NOT meet in October but we encourage all members to do the October bible study independently. We also encourage members to stay connected through phone calls and cards. These are times we still need to hear from each other. Also remember the people in nursing homes and our young families who need words of hope. Let this be our mission for October. In Christian Love

SALVATION ARMY DRIVE THRU FOOD DRIVE: We are facing an unprecedented challenge, so any donation will be warmly welcomed. Please continue to support those most in need.

When: Sunday, October 11, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Salvation Army, 120 S 7th St, Beatrice

FOOD DRIVE: The competition is on!! The council is asking all members to participate in the Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge. The kickoff is October 25. Each participant will be given an empty box and a calendar page listing a food item to be placed in your box for each of the following 30 days. On November 22, we would ask for you to bring the filled box back to church, when we can display the boxes before delivering to the Community Food Pantry for distribution for those in need. Please contact a council member to get your box and calendar page.

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.

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. 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:

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

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Brad Frerichs

Accompanist – Sandy Mahler