

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**305 Livingston St, Filley, NE**  
**Pastor LuRae Hallstrom**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 11, 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 Isaiah 25: 1, 4)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O Lord, you are my God;

**C: I will exalt you and praise your name.**

P: In perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

**C: You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress.**

P: You are a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.

**All: O Lord, you are my God. I will exalt you and praise your name forever.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Father forgive us for the many ways we fail to live up to the example of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: He worshipped you, He trusted You and sought the honor of Your name in all circumstances.**

P: He kept and fulfilled every aspect of your holy law and pleased You in all that He did.

**C: We know that we should be like Him in attitude, speech and action, but we fail in so many ways.**

P: Forgive us that we often find it so hard to praise You.

**C: Your word often tells us to rejoice in our security in You, and yet we do not rejoice.**

P: We are easily downcast by our circumstances, but do not bring our anxieties before You in prayer.

**C: We forfeit peace when we go in search of our own solutions to our problems and do not bring our petitions to You.**

P: Our relationships with one another are spoiled by sins such as envy and boasting.

**C: Forgive us the times when we have been slow to forgive others and slow to mend bridges.**

P: Forgive us the lack of gentleness we display in our dealings with fellow believers and those outside the church.

**C: Forgive us when our eyes and thoughts stray into areas that should be no-go territories.**

P: Help us instead to dwell on whatever is true, noble, right, whatever is pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy.

**C: Ultimately, help us fix our thoughts on Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

**C: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

READINGS

Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

*Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

## CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE:

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Prayer of St. Francis"

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

- 1. Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love. Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord. And where there's doubt, true faith in You.**
- 2. Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.  
Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek, So much to be consoled as to console. To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love with all my soul.**
- 3. Make me a channel of Your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, In giving to all men that we receive, And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

"Prayer of St. Francis," words and music by Sebastian Temple. Dedicated to Mrs. Frances Tracy. Text and music © 1967, OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-715997

## BLANKET DEDICATION SERVICE

**P:** Now let us bless the blankets that will be sent from American Lutheran across the world through Lutheran World Relief and to other organizations in need. You are invited to place your hand upon a blanket near you. Let us pray: O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed the hands that made these blankets with so many gifts — now the fruits of their labor are an offering to you.

**C:** **We dedicate these blankets to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever they are sent, making it more than just a piece of material— making each piece that has been created an expression of love. May they become blessings for all those who receive them. Amen.**

## 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

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus 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, Dustin Fritch, our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Cole Schmale (Oct. 11), Tyler Eggert, Madyson Hill (Oct. 13), Ervin Huls (Oct. 15), Terry Howell, Kelly Baehr (Oct. 16), Brady Bledsaw (Oct. 17).

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** to Tanner & Emily Bowhay (10-13-18).

#### **PRESENTATION OF BIBLES:**

**Third Grade:** Braxten Eagleburger, Dalton Heideman, Owen Wehrbin

**Kindergarten:** Colten Brethouwer, Wyatt Schultz, Peyton Keedy

#### **PRESENTATION OF LITTLE LAMBS**

Preschool age children beginning Sunday School will be recognized and will receive their Little Lambs presented at their Baptism: Madelyne Tremain, Fynleigh Kunza, Aylee Remmenga, Decker Bohling, Kailor Fritch, Loryn Antons, Sawyer Wilgers, Avery Keedy

**RALLY SUNDAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL** is today! 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.

Dear friends, please accept my most sincere thanks for your steadfast love and support as we have celebrated both joys and sorrows.

I'm grateful for all the ways that I was remembered for 5 years of ordained ministry. I was showered with cards, prayers, well wishes, a congregational meal and treasured gifts. Marking a journey that began over 9 years ago at ALC/Filley and continues to offer great joy.

The passing of 3 immediate family member in less than 12 months has been challenging paired with the Covid pandemic. But you, my friends, have walked beside me and my family in our grief. My heart sings when the Lord's words of comfort come from the pen or lips of one of my beloved flock.

As we sat in Dad's hospital room hearing the devastating medical reports, a kind soul offered, "God won't give you more than you can handle" to which I quietly added the simple word "alone".

Alone, we can fall from our challenges. We were designed by God to live in community with one another, supporting others when they are down. I take particular comfort in the words from Joshua 1:9, **"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

This...I believe. Pr. LuRae

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION:** Thank you so very much for the Care Closet and backpack donations. Our school is very blessed to have such a caring and generous church family to help with these types of donations. I appreciate your kindness! Sincerely, Juli Smith, Lewiston Principal

**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: Today, October 11

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Salvation Army, 120 S 7<sup>th</sup> 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 22. 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](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).

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on Facebook and on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://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](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

**Audio/Video** – Brad Frerichs

**Accompanist** – Sandy Mahler