

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
305 Livingston St, Filley, NE
Pastor LuRae Hallstrom
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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 96)

L: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

C: Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

L: tell of his salvation from day to day.

C: We will share the good news with our neighbors.

L: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

C: We will live to show God's glory.

L: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

C: We will worship only the Lord.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: 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.

L: 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)

L: 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.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Let us pray...

C: Almighty Lord God, you who are the ultimate authority and judge over all, increase in us a desire to give to you what is yours. Let our giving to you be joy-filled and obedient. Enable our congregation to be faithful stewards of your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

(Baptism anniversary families please stand)

L: A little more than a year ago, Kason Virden, Leia Tyo, Waylon Schultz, Peyton Keedy and Avery Keedy were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. They received the sign of the cross on their forehead with the blessing, "child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

In baptism we are filled with the light of Christ. May we walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for the gift of these children being part of your family through their baptism. We are thankful for your love. We ask that you bless these children and all of us today as we remember and celebrate their baptism. Please continue to shower Kason, Leia, Waylon, Peyton & Avery with your love and grace to help them grow in holiness every day. Amen.

We would also like to present Wyatt Schultz with his bible and little lamb this morning.

Wyatt, receive the gift of this Bible so that the story of God and God's people may be with you. We rejoice in this step in your journey with God and pray God will guide you and your family as you use this Holy Bible.

READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and

whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

MESSAGE

Video Message by Rev. Brian Maas
Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, ELCA

HYMN OF THE DAY: "

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

1. 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down, where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
2. When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shall not be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.

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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 God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. 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: Ron Weiss, Henry Lenners, Scott & Dayna Anderson, Delores Baehr, Dustin Fritch, our shut-ins.

THANK YOU to our confirmation students, Brady Bledsaw, Jaxon Janssen, Tristen Ray, and Kierstin Rehms, for leading worship for us today!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Makai Mayfield (Oct. 20), Brandie Condit (Oct. 21), Cam Antons, Ashley Milburn, Madelyn Tremain (Oct. 23).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Ervin & Jolene Huls (10-24-71).

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES: The following were received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism a year or more ago and are receiving their baptism banners today:

Kason Emery Virden and Leia Ruth Tyo, children of Jordan Tyo were baptized on March 3, 2019.

Waylon Schultz, son of Nick & Dalena Schultz, was baptized on April 14, 2019.

Peyton & Avery Keedy, children of Adam & Kenya Keedy, were baptized on June 2, 2019.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School begins 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.

THANK YOU to every man, woman and child who helped with our quilts!! We completed 125 quilts which will be given to several places of need!!! Even during Covid we can be God's hands!! Blessings to all!!!

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 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 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