

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

Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 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.

The Women of the ELCA's Thankofferings will be received this morning. We recognize and appreciate them for their continuing work in the church and community.

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 95:1-7a)

¹O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

²**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

³For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Amen.

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)

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray...

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I

was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

MESSAGE

Pastor Arden Dorn

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Beautiful Savior”

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

1. Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be Thine!

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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

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation and restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of grace, you have showered us with abundance and entrusted to us ministries, including the ministry of the Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our

callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Be with those living with illness, especially.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

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.

Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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!

OUR THANKS to Pastor Arden Dorn for being our worship leader this morning.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Ervin Huls, Mindy Jurgens, Betty Leners, Pastor LuRae & Bob Hallstrom, Henry & Ann Leners, Delores Baehr, Dustin Fritch, our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Brenda Nouzovsky (Nov. 23), DeLanye Currie, Henry Leners (Nov. 24), Tiffany Robertson (Nov. 25), Avery Busing, Kent Hippen (Nov. 26), Dora Schoen (Nov. 28).

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Henry Leners who will be 85 on November 24. God's richest blessings be with you!

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Bill & Sarah Harder (11-23-07), Scott & Brenda Nouzovsky (11-25-94) and Larry & Ann Weyers (11-26-67).

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH has a brand new "Chromebook" for sale, purchased in September. Paid \$299 and would sell for \$275. Contact a council member if interested.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School begins each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and is 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.**

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS - Please send your weekly November sermon notes either to: norton_dan@yahoo.com or American Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 66, Filley, NE 68357.

HELP NEEDED: We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Thank you for your ministry!

CHRISTIAN BOOKS can be found downstairs on tables in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to borrow one or more - there is no rush to return them.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of John Keedy who passed away Tuesday, Nov. 10. John's funeral will be November 24. We commend John to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Scott Thomas who passed away Sunday, Nov .15. Scott's funeral was November 19. We commend Scott to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Bryce Niss who passed away Tuesday, Nov. 17. Bryce's funeral was November 20. We commend Bryce to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Food Drive! Your generosity is very much appreciated.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA THANKOFFERINGS:

A brief history: The idea of collecting donations in small offering boxes goes back to the very early 1800s, when women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to raise money. Mite boxes were given out as fundraising tools to collect pennies for the support of church projects and foreign missionaries. These women-led cent societies, platforms for social activism as well as evangelism in the 19th century, published their own literature, Bible studies and other materials advocating around issues such as child labor, literacy and prison reform. In time, larger missionary and ladies aid societies developed out of this work because there was such an overwhelming demand not only for foreign missionary support but for support at home. These women's groups funded needs in their local churches as well as local community projects. Their capacity for fundraising was acknowledged and generally welcomed by their congregations. The earliest American Lutheran women's missionary society was founded in New York in 1837 to financially support the education and ordination of foreign missionaries from their synod. In 1879, the first national American Lutheran women's missionary society, the General Synod's Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, was founded. The original reason behind the creation? Funds were needed to financially support two young women who wanted to be foreign missionaries but were

denied funding by the Board of Missions. A national women's structure was born! For this new organization, supporting missionary work both abroad as well as in the United States was seen as essential, and so missionaries were assigned to both foreign and domestic locations. For example, because of the support of the General Synod's Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, a young pastor named Rev. C.W. Heisler was sent as a missionary to Los Angeles, California. He helped establish First Lutheran in 1887, which is now the oldest ELCA congregation in Los Angeles. Less than a decade after the national missionary society was established, the wide-reaching impact of women's giving to the mission and ministries of the Lutheran church was evident.

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. In the Lutheran tradition, the General Synod's Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society celebrated the 10th anniversary of the organization in 1889. At that first Thankoffering, \$6,100 was collected. Today, Women of the ELCA collects more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women's organization. Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

Stewardship is not just about providing assistance to others. It is also about provoking others to recognize their power to implement change through their offerings. It was this hope of change that motivated the women's cent societies 200 years ago, and it is the same today. Inspired by our spiritual foremothers, we continue to see our witness to the gospel, our capacity to serve and our community of women grow through our offerings

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