



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 1, 2024, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Erik Rundquist

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community.”

Welcome to Worship this morning!

To receive Holy Communion, you may come to the front and receive the bread and wine or grape juice, you may ask an usher to have the pastor bring the elements to you in the pew, or you may pick up the cup/wafer in the narthex before the service and commune yourself at your seat.

Reminder: We are videoing “live.”

Please sign the pew pad and pass down the aisle. Thank You.

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Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

For Worship today,

“We Are Gathered” *blue book.*

Gathering/Prelude Music

Joanne Richards

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Invocation

We Are Gathered pg. 1

1st time leaders, 2nd time ALL.

Jesus, we are gathered, Jesus we are gathered. Jesus, we are gathered, we are gathered, Lord Jesus for You.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy, Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

Opening Song

We Are Gathered pg. 1

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand. You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

Kyrie

We Are Gathered pg. 2

Refrain: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trails in the present, nor any trail to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

1. Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the Spirit who brings you to life. **Refrain.**
2. All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen and loved. **Refrain.**

Song of Praise

We Are Gathered pg. 3

Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Leader: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

All: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Leader: To God be glory forever!

All: To God be glory forever!

Leader: Alleluia! Amen!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of the Day

L: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Salutation

We Are Gathered pg. 4

Leader: May the God of all grace, who has called you to glory, support you and make you strong.

All: Blessed be God, who chose you in Christ. Live in love as Christ loved us.

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Charles Mans

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

Psalm 15

Charles Mans

L: LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**C: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

L: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**C: In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

L: They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Lesson James 1:17-27

Charles Mans

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Alleluia

We Are Gathered pg. 4

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-hal-le- hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah., Hal-le-lu-jah.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Carole Lahti

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,
²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Alleluia

We Are Gathered pg. 4

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-hal-le- hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah., Hal-le-lu-jah.

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Erik Rundquist

Sermon

Pastor Erik Rundquist

Song “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” (sing 2 times)

RWB # 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood. When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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Baptism of Milie Jo Couch

Red Worship Book pg. 227

We Are Gathered pg. 5

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord send your Spirit in this place, Lord listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r send us grace.

Prayers for the People of God

We Are Gathered pg. 6

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition one of the following verses will be sung:

P: God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,

C: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

P: God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

P: Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,

C: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

P: Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

P: On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,

C: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed (*especially*). We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

C: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior

C: Amen.

Offering/Songs

We Are Gathered pg. 6, 7

Refrain: 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.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

Offering Prayer

We Are Gathered pg. 7

P: Gracious God,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-our selves, our time and our possession, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

We Are Gathered pg. 8

1. Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
2. From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever! Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever! Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love, remem-b'ring your covenant of life with us.
3. Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever! Thanks be to you forever!

Invitation and Words of Institution

We Are Gathered pg. 9

P: Come, O people Come, let us celebrate together the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Congregation sings once)

We Are Gathered pg. 9

God extends an invitation to the table of creation, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we gather in thanksgiving and we offer all our living. Here the feast of life is spread; there the feast of life is spread.

P: Come, you who are hungry; Come, for this celebration. 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, he 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."

Today we are celebrating our commitment to Christ Jesus. Today we are renewing our faith in the presence of God in all the world. And no one shall go hungry away.

We Are Gathered pg. 10

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread. All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed. Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail scarred hand. Eat of the bread of salvation, drink of the blood of the Lamb.

The Prayer of Christ

We Are Gathered pg. 10

C: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, they kingdom come, they 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 trespasses 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 of Holy Communion

This is the gift of God for all people without exception of faith tradition or age.

We provide gluten free bread and grape juice at your request.

Communion Hymn

We Are Gathered pg. 11

Refrain: Bread of life from heaven, your blood and dogy given, we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.

1. Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. ***Refrain.***
2. Seek not the food that will pass away; set your hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the living way, that the fullness of life may be yours. ***Refrain.***
3. Love as the one who, in love for, gave himself for the life of the world. Come to the one who is food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. ***Refrain.***
4. Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your home in the life giving Word. Know only Christ, Holy One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. ***Refrain.***
5. Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this bread and believe Easter morn/ trust his return and, with ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn. ***Refrain.***

Communion Hymn

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

Red Worship Book# 681

- 1 We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand, who sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain: All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above. We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

2 You only are the maker of all things near and far. You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star. The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed; much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread. *Refrain*

3 We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good, the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts, but what you most would treasure—our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain.*

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.

Congregation Stands

We Are Gathered pg. 11

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you. My heart is glad to say the words: You are Holy, God.

Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

We Are Gathered pg. 12

Refrain: Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness. Hallelujah! We Sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

1. Christ the Lord to us said; I am wine, I am bread, I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. *Refrain.*
2. Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt, strong in faith, free of doubt, strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel. *Refrain.*

Blessing

We Are Gathered pg. 12



Baptized at our font today, was Millie Jo Couch.

Her parents are Jake and Sarah Couch. Her sponsors are Erik Prescott and Benjamin Couch.

We welcome Millie Jo Couch into the family of God at First Lutheran.



**Please remember to start wearing your name tags,
today!**



It helps new members, members, and visitors to get to know you. If you don't have a name tag, please use one of the sticky ones but leave your name in the church office, so that we can make one for you.

Thank You.

Announcements for September 1st

****The Noisy offering for the month of September is for
A Place for You.**



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Wyatt Brown, Kathy Burkhardt (friend of Robin Hendrix), Gary Wells, Karen Johnson, Vernon Zehms (brother of Joyce Seegebath), family of Rebecca Wiczek, Richard Holmberg (brother of Sue Skalicky), Bob Kinblom, Tom Williams (brother of Robin Hendrix), David Shober, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, and Lana Jensen.

Care facility member-Ron Klapel.

**For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, Policemen & women,
and the military. For all those who serve to protect.**

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/Baptism.

Mon Labor Day-Office Closed.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study; 5-6 pm Community Meal.

Wed. 10 am Staff mtg.; 6 pm Confirmation mtg. with Patents and Youth; 7 pm Worship.

Thurs. 7 am Men's Fellowship; 7:30 am Men's Text Study

Sat. 10 am- 4 pm Ashley Laberge (Olander) using Fellowship Hall for Baby Shower; 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/Bells.

**Stories & Songs Remembering
the Great Hinckley Fire of 1894.**

Sunday, September 1st

11:30AM, 12:30PM, 2:30PM, 3:30PM

Hinckley Fire Museum

FREE ADMISSION for the Museum and the Performance

Please join us for performance excerpts of a new, moving & meaningful play with music commemorating the 130th Anniversary of the Great Hinckley Fire.... written by playwright and Hinckley native Jeremiah Gamble.





Please join us for Worship on Wednesday evenings at **7 pm.** Please note that this is different from the past. Looking forward to seeing you at **7 pm starting September 4th.**

Please Join us for the Community Meal
5-6 pm on September 3rd.



Financial Report for July

July General Fund income: \$11,855.27

July General Fund expenses: \$17,267.88

Net loss: (\$5,412.71)

General Fund balance (\$8,015.89)

The Church Council has made a decision on flooring, to go with polyurea (similar to epoxy) longer shelf life and stronger. Anyone who has concerns can contact the Church Council or Pastor.



Pastor's Bible Study

Join us on Wednesday's starting Sept. 11th at 6:30 pm for the Pastor's Bible Study on Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism. This is for all ages, if interested, please let Pastor Erik or the office know.