

Our Tree of Life



July 16, 2023

First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

320-839-2527

Reverend Denise Fossen

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

SERVICE OF THE WORD



9:00 am

PREPARATION

Prelude

Favorite Hymns

Bells

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Greeting & Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **C: Amen.**

P: Merciful God, **C: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: Righteous God, **C: we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: God is a cup of cold water...in the name of † Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

'Blessed Assurance'

#638

Presented by Marla Strei

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(Refrain): This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long: this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Refrain)

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Refrain)

Greeting

pg. 213

Hymn

Favorite Hymn

Prayer of the Day: P: Almighty God, **C: we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-13

OT pg. 531

Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

NT pg. 120

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music

'Borning Cry'

Jonathan & Carol Ydstie

Text & tune by John Ylvisaker, setting by Daniel Kallman

Gospel Acclamation

'Alleluia. Lord to whom....'

pg. 216

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text & Music: ©1999 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Contributors: Robin Cain

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

NT pg. 10-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Denise Fossen

Hymn of the Day

Favorite Hymn

Apostle's Creed

p. 105

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 for the People of God

P: ... Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

MEAL

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn

Favorite Hymn

Offertory Prayer **C: Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the Word Prayer

pg. 220

Lord's Prayer

pg. 221

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.

SENDING

Benediction

P: May God the sower make you good and fertile soil. May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions. May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives. God the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C: We Will! Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

'How Great Thou Art'

#856

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

(Refrain): **Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!**

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *(Refrain)*

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my burden gladly bearing he bled and died to take away my sin; *(Refrain)*

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *(Refrain)*

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.

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Bells

Postlude

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Revelations 22- Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

If you have pastoral needs, please call Pastor Denise anytime at 763-516-2026.

Welcome to all visitors and guests! May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle. Please join us downstairs following worship for coffee and fellowship.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

OFFERING UPDATE: Here are the expenses for June: \$23,275.18. Here is what we received: \$16,183.83. We deficit spent \$7,091.35. This resulted in a transfer from Operating Reserves of \$10,000. You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net.



Birthday wishes go out to Jyla Dahle whose birthday is coming up on Tuesday and belated birthday wishes go out to Alene Gustafson whose birthday was last Friday.

Attending Green Lake Bible Camp this week are Jace, Vada, Wiley, Dawson, Gibson, Reba, Cody, Justice, Mya, Landri, and Jaxson. Please add these youth to your prayers to have a safe and inspirational time this week.

We are looking for volunteers to prepare and serve coffee on Sundays going forward. Please contact the office if you are willing to help. If no one volunteers, we may not be able to have coffee fellowship after our services.



Green Lake Lutheran Ministries 39th Annual Quilt Auction is coming up on July 21-22nd. There will also be a Makers Market at the Quilt Auction where you can peruse the collection of tools, patterns, books, and materials for a wide variety of crafting areas. For more information on the schedule of the weekend and details of the auction, visit www.gllm.org/quilt-auction

We are seeking to fill the FELC Youth Leader position. It will start at approx. 20-hours per week during school year, less in the summer. Limited evenings and weekend hours for youth ministry activities and chaperoning youth events and trips. There is potential for future growth in hours with program growth. If you, or someone you know is interested, please drop off resume and references at the church office or e-mail them to the pastor at pastor@firstenglish.net.

Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection will be meeting on Tuesday, July 18th at 5:30 pm at Tabor Methodist Church in Big Stone City, SD. Speaker will be Sally Hjelle of Savage, MN. Her topic is "Accentuate the Positive...Eliminate the Negative." Special feature will be Larry Helgeson of Ortonville. The museum is a gold mine of treasures and Larry will expound on a few. Special music will be provided by Jason Helgeson. The cost is \$6.00, and you can register with Carol Rabe at 605-862-8570 or just be a walk-in. Free nursery by reservation.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Ricky Anderson Jr., Carol Barrett; Glenn Berdan; Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Brandi Tweeter; Clara Zeek; Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Baby Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; Baby McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; Jerry Stotesbery; and Terry Ward. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict. If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.



REMINDER: Calendar and other important information is on our website at www.firstenglish.net and on the bulletin board (kiosk) in the narthex. The church office number is (320)839-2527.

This Week's Ministry Assistants— July 16th

Organist: Lisa Berdan

Lector: Lois Bergeson

Tech Desk: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

Acolytes: Chase & Ava

Ushers: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Dick & Marla Strei

Greeters: Scott & Julie Schneider

Coffee Servers: Nornes

Next Week's Ministry Assistants— July 23rd

Organist: Carol Ydstie

Lector: Kristi Ehrenberg

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Acolytes: James & Owen

Ushers: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Dick & Marla Strei

Greeters: Marilee Haukos & Lori Larson

Coffee Servers: Henningsons

Weekly Calendar

Sun – 7/16 9:00 am Worship – Favorite Hymns – KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

Mon – 7/17 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 7/18 8:30 am Day of Love

4:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at Fairway View

Wed – 7/19 9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast

Fri – 7/21 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 7/23 9:00 am Worship – KDIO & FB Live

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship



July 16, 2023, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God who scatters the seeds of the Word, let our hearts be good soil, that fed and watered by the Holy Spirit, we might grow into flourishing plants, bearing the fruits of justice and mercy for the sake of the whole creation. In Jesus name. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

"But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:23)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus tells a vivid parable inviting his listeners to open his hearts to become rich and nourishing soil in which God's word can take root so that they in turn might bear fruit in acts of love for the world.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What does it mean to be “good soil”? Is it something you can do for yourself or something you must rely on God to do? How does the distinction shape how you prepare yourself to receive God’s word?

For the littles: What is your favorite plant or flower?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God prepare your heart to receive God’s word. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God’s word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Do your grocery shopping this week at a co-op. Talk to the owner or a worker about where the food comes from. Consider how consuming food grown locally can support your community and contribute toward better health.



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 142; Micah 1:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tuesday, Psalm 142; Jeremiah 49:7-11; Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Wednesday, Psalm 142; Obadiah 15-21; Matthew 13:10-17

Thursday, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:1-5; Hebrews 2:1-9

Friday, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Hebrews 6:13-20

Saturday, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Exodus 14:9-25; Matthew 7:15-20