

Our Tree of Life



August 20, 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

Twelfth 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 'Lord I Lift Your Name on High' Neva Foster #857

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises; I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

(Repeat)

Text and music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Capitol Christian Music Group
Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954 Music: Rick Founds

Greeting

pg. 213

Hymn 'Here I Am Lord'

Archer Dorry

#574

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946 Text © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Prayer of the Day: P: God of all peoples, **C: your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: 56:1, 6-8

OT pg. 531

Psalms 67

ELW Psalm 67

L: ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

C: ² **Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

L: ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C: ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

L: ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C: ⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

L: ⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

NT pg. 122

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music

'Whispering Hope'

Lee Kantan & Wanda Berry

Song written by Alice Hawthorne (AKA Septimus Winner) in 1868

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 15:10-28 NT pg. 13

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 'All Are Welcome' #641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain *All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

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 'Just a Closer Walk With Thee' Ethel Swenson #697

Refrain Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*

2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*

3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

Text: North American traditional Music: North American traditional

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: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Closing Hymn

'Go My Children'

Terry Kalberg

#543

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Bells


Postlude

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 July: \$17,983.03. Here is what we received: \$17,283.32. We deficit spent \$699.71. You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at  www.firstenglish.net.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Rita Verheul whose birthday is today, Ardell LaCombe whose birthday is this Tuesday, and Eleanor Nicholausen whose birthday is Wednesday.

Congratulations and God's Blessings be with Matt and Kirsten Karels and family on the adoption of the newest member to their family: Ellie Mae Sahalie Karels.

God's Work Our Hands is coming up on September 10th. Michelle Bauer has volunteered to assist in co-coordinating leading up to 9/10, but she won't be here that weekend. We are seeking someone to co-coordinate and lead God's Work Our Hands' Sunday. Please contact the office before August 27th if you are willing to help serve in this way or if you have any GWOH project recommendations.

New Member Sunday is on September 17th. If you are formally interested in joining our congregation, please talk with Pastor Denise (763-516-2026) or contact the church office (320-839-2527).

Our Annual Backpack Blessing is August 27th – Let's send our congregation's kids into the new school year assured of God's promises and our loving support! Be sure to join us and to include all of our young people in your prayers as they go back to school. Children should bring along their school backpack for this special backpack blessing event. During the service, children will come forward for a special moment of prayer and blessing.



St. Joseph's Catholic Church is holding their annual bazaar & raffle August 27th. There will be a Roast Beef Dinner (11am-1pm), outdoor games, bingo, cakewalk, hog-weight guess, country store, root beer floats, beer garden, plus a raffle with over \$4,000 in cash and prizes! See posted flyers for more information.

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.



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.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Ricky Anderson Jr., Carol Barrett; Jyla Dahle, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Brandi Tweeter; 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— August 20th

Organist: Marilyn Hanson

Acolytes: Mason & Rylie

Tech Desk: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

Lector: Jim Foster

Ushers: Russel Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman

Greeters: Jim & Neva Foster

Coffee Servers: Ellingsons

Next Week's Ministry Assistants— August 27th

Organist: Amy Adelman

Acolytes: Jaclyn & Raimi

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Lector: Brent Zahrbock

Ushers: Eugene Stotesberry, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Keven Berdan

Greeters: Terry Kalberg & Kathy Randall

Coffee Servers: TBD

Weekly Calendar

Sun – 8/20 9:00 am Worship – Favorite Hymns – KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

Mon – 8/21 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 8/22 8:30 am Day of Love
4:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at Fairway View

Wed – 8/23 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE / CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS**

9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast
5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast
6:00-8:30 pm Confirmation Interviews

Fri – 8/25 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 8/27 9:00 am Worship – Backpack Blessing –
Noisy Offering – KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship
10:20 am WAM Meeting

Dear friend,

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

[Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany our neighbors in Hawaii impacted by these wildfires. Will you consider a gift today?](#)

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

With gratitude,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift Director, ELCA World Hunger
and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Additional Ways to Give

Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



August 20, 2023, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

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 of grace and mercy, give us boldness to ask of you what we need, even—and especially—when we feel you are not listening. Let us never be afraid to be persistent in prayer for the sake of the whole creation. Amen.



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

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15:28)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus explained that words and actions have more ability to pollute or heal than what we put into our bodies. Then a Gentile woman challenges Jesus to heed his own words, and she is rewarded for her faith.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

Why do you think Jesus reprimanded the Gentile woman for asking for his help? Was Jesus trying to teach the disciples a lesson or was he wrong? How did his encounter with the woman change him?

When have you been challenged to rethink your words or actions? How did you grow?

For the littles: How do you make your family the best it can be?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God strengthen your faith in the face of adversity. Amen.



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

Consider one person in your life that you work hard to avoid. Make a point to be in their life more often this week and think of them as God's child. Consider how your extra exposure to them shifts how you feel or think about them.



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

Monday, Psalm 130; Genesis 43:1-34; Acts 15:1-21

Tuesday, Psalm 130; Genesis 44:1-34; Romans 11:13-29

Wednesday, Psalm 130; Genesis 45:16-28; Matthew 8:1-13

Thursday, Psalm 124; Genesis 49:1-33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Friday, Psalm 124; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

Saturday, Psalm 124; Genesis 50:15-26; Matthew 16:5-12