

*Our Tree of Life*



## First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

320-839-2527

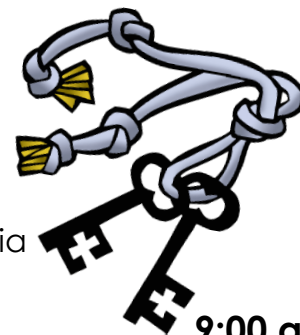
Reverend Denise Fossen

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania

### Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### SERVICE OF THE WORD



9:00 am

August 27, 2023

## PREPARATION

Prelude

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:** *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 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

*'Built on a Rock' vs. 1-3*

#652

**1. Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling; crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are chiming and calling— calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed, longing for life everlasting.**

**2. Surely, in temples made with hands God the Most High is not dwelling— high in the heav'ns his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n above deigns to abide with us in love, making our bodies his temple.**

**3. Christ builds a house of living stones: we are his own habitation; he fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us life and salvation. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their midst will show his grace, blessings upon them bestowing.**

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt. Music: Ludvig M. Lindman, 1812-1887.  
Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Greeting

pg. 213

*'Glory to God'*

pg. 213

*(Refrain):* **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *(Refrain)***

**2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *(Refrain)***

**3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Final Refrain:* **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.**

Contributors: Thomas Pavlechko. Tune: © 2006, Augsburg Fortress Text: English Language Liturgical Consultation.

Prayer of the Day: P: O God, **C: with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

Psalm 138

ELW Psalm 138

L: <sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

**C: <sup>2</sup> I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

L: <sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

**C: <sup>4</sup> All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

L: <sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

**C: <sup>6</sup> The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

L: <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**C: <sup>8</sup> You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

NT pg. 123

Children's Message  
Backpack Blessing  
Noisy Offering

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music

*'It Is Well With My Soul'*  
Written by Horatio G. Spafford

Russ Howard

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 16:13-20

NT pg. 14

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

*'My Hope is Built on Nothing Less'*

#596

**1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

*(Refrain): On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

**2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *(Refrain)***

**3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood; when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *(Refrain)***

**4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found, clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!**

*(Refrain)*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868.

**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                      *'We Are An Offering' (sing twice)*                      #692

**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 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.**

Text and music Dwight Liles, b.1957, © 1984 Word Music, LLC.!

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.**

**1. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

**2. We all are called for service, to witness in God's name. Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace, so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

**3. Now let us be united, and let our song be heard. Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955. Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version.

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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 <sup>2</sup>through 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. <sup>3</sup>Nothing 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; <sup>4</sup>they 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 anonymously in support of the radio broadcast ministry. [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](http://www.firstenglish.net).



**Happy Birthday wishes go out** to Evelyn Olson whose birthday is this Tuesday!

## **Congratulations & God's Blessings to**

...Gene & Marcy Stotesberry who are celebrating their 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

...Andrea & Daniel Bartels on the birth of their son, David, on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**May the God of all consolation be with Vern & Carol Bell** as Vern Bell's brother, Daryl, passed away 8/11 and his funeral was 8/21 in Lakeville, MN.

**Today is Our Annual Backpack Blessing** – Let's send our congregation's kids into the new school year assured of God's promises and our loving support! During the service, children will come forward for a special moment of prayer and blessing.




**New Member Sunday** is on September 17<sup>th</sup>. 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).

**Confirmation Orientation is this Wednesday!** 7-10<sup>th</sup> grade Acolyte training and refresher training is at 3:30 pm. New students will be measured for cassocks (robes). The 10<sup>th</sup> grade class meets to discuss confirmation rite at 5:00 pm. 7-9<sup>th</sup> graders (with parents/guardians) will have orientation at 6:30 pm.


**Sr. Choir will begin Wednesday,** August 30, at 7:00 pm. New members of all ages with a basic enthusiasm for music and desire to spend time with a fun, supportive group are always welcome and appreciated! If your summer plans prevent you from joining us in August or early September, join us any Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the choir room located on the lower level next to the fellowship hall.

**God's Work Our Hands** is coming up on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Kari and Archer Dorry and Michelle Bauer have volunteered to co-coordinate this year's God's Work, Our Hands event. We look forward to serving our neighbors that day.

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church** is holding their annual bazaar & raffle today, August 27<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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. 







August 27, 2023, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 16:13-20

*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 all, you call us into community with one another and with you. Empower us to see our unique gifts, that we might gladly offer them in service to this congregation and the world. In Jesus name. Amen.



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

*"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus questioned the disciples about who people thought he was. In his question, he indirectly pointed toward himself as the Messiah, toward Peter as the rock on which the church would be built, and toward God.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

**Who is your rock? In what ways have they helped you? Who leans on you as their rock? In what ways have you helped them?**

**For the littles: What can you do with rocks? Describe the perfect rock. Is it big? Small? Round? Jagged?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God be your rock. Amen.**



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

**Build a balancing rock tower. Use it to remember that God is our rock.**



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

Monday, Psalm 8; Exodus 1:1-7; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, Psalm 8; Exodus 2:11-15a; Romans 11:33-36

Wednesday, Psalm 8; Exodus 2:15b-22; Matthew 26:6-13

Thursday, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 2:23-24; Eph. 5:1-6

Friday, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 3:16-22; 2 Thess. 2:7-12

Saturday, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 4:1-9; Matthew 8:14-17