

Our Tree of Life



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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God's Work, Our Hands



September 10, 2023

9:00 am

Note: Offering basket as you enter – no collection or presentation & Communion in pews with communion kits to save time.

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: In the name of the + triune God, who loves us into being, calls us to community, and inspires us to love. **C: Amen.**

P: God of love and community, **C: we confess that we have not loved as God has loved us. We look to ourselves to fulfill your law. We seek to satisfy our own desires. We turn away from our neighbors and live for ourselves alone. Teach us again your statutes and help us to love your will, that in and through us your beloved community is made known.**

P: Beloved of God, love is the fulfillment of the law, and in + Jesus, God's love for you is made known. Through Jesus your sins are forgiven, and you are drawn into God's love and life. Live fully, knowing that God loves you.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

'Earth and All Stars (vs. 1, 3, & 5)

#731

1. Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!

(Refrain): **God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!**

**3. Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song!**

(Refrain)

**5. Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!**

(Refrain)

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926. Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987. Text & Music ©1968 Augsburg Publishing House.

Prayer of the Day: P: Holy One, **C: you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

NT pg. 124

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

NT pg. 15

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

Prayers for the People of God

P: God, we pray, **C: open our hands in love.**

MEAL

Thanksgiving at the table

P: Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator. In the beginning... we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg:

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

Post Communion Prayer

P: Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **C: Amen.**

Announcement of God's Work, Our Hands Options

SENDING

Benediction

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: We Will! Thanks be to God.**

Blessing of Hands for the Ministry

P: We are called to proclaim the good news:

C: God is at work!

P: This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

C: God is at work in the world still today!

P: In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

C: God is at work in us!

P: In our service today, and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

C: God is at work through our hands!

Signing a cross on the backs of the hands:

P: God bless your hands and your work,

Signing a cross on the palms of the hands:

P: that through you God's love may be known.

C: Amen.

- 1. God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 2. God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 3. God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 4. God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.**

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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.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored in honor of Doug & Amy Adleman's 40th Wedding Anniversary on 9/10. Given by their children and grandchildren: Alyssa Weinand, Aaron, Tyler, Kyle, Alicia, Owen, Ava, Ella, Tenley, Ander, and Savannah. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week]. 2024 cards are available in the box.


OFFERING UPDATE: Here are the expenses for August: \$23,576.78. Here is what we received: \$25,314.73. You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net. 

Congratulations and God's blessings to Doug & Amy Adleman on their 40th Wedding Anniversary.


Happy Birthday Wishes go out to Art Lee whose birthday is today.

The 2024 KDIO Cards have been added to the KDIO box in the Narthex if you would like to pick a specific date to sponsor, you can grab your cards today.

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries has several Programmed Retreats for this fall season. You can find more information on them on the flyers posted around the building.

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. 

Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection will be meeting on Tuesday, September 19th at 5:30 pm at Tabor Methodist Church in Big Stone City, SD. Speaker will be Delaine Shay of Sioux Falls. Her topic is "New Life." Special feature will be a silent auction as fundraiser for Stonecroft. Items such as decorations, baked goods, crafts, garden produce, etc. may be brought when you come. Special music will be provided by Dan Lindholm of Milbank (soloist). 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; Jyla Dahle, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Brandi Tweeter; Monty Athey, 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. 

We are seeking 2 candidates to fill the positions of **Jr./Sr. High Program Leader** and **Elementary Program Leader**. The *Jr./Sr. High Program Leader* would work a flexible schedule of 5-10 hours per week. Primary responsibilities include leading Jr./Sr. High youth group sessions on-site for approx. 2 hours on Wednesday evenings, plus additional planning hours. The *Elementary Program Leader* would work a flexible schedule of 3-8 hours per. Would primarily be responsible for leading Kids Club on-site for 1st – 6th grade students for approx. 2 hours on Wednesday after school, plus additional planning hours. If we have a candidate willing to perform both positions as a *combined Youth Program Leader*, that option is also available for anywhere from 10-20 hours per week. We are very flexible. Can earn up to \$20/hr for these positions relative to responsibilities. If interested, contact the secretary at secretary@firstenglish.net.



The Day of Love has donated eight colorful quilts to Someplace Safe.
God's Work Our Hands..stitched and bound with love.

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— September 10th God's Work Our Hands

Organist: Amy Adelman

FWV: Kim Anderson

Tech Desk: Matt Karels & Marina Thomson

Acolytes: Amelia & Lexi

Lay Assistants: Jim & Ranet Schmeichel

Lector: Brent Zahrbock

Ushers: Glenn Henningson, Larry Dahle, Jon & Kim Anderson

Greeters: Sharon Carlson & Lois Bergeson

GWOH Coordinators: Kari Dorry, Archer Dorry, & Michelle Bauer

Thank you to all the volunteers helping with GWOH!

Next Week's Ministry Assistants— September 17th New Member & Rally Sunday

Organist: Lisa Berdan

Lector: Terry Kalberg

Tech Desk: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

Acolytes: Hannah & Brooke

Ushers: Dean Longnecker, Dick Strei, Joss Wollschlager, & Russ Thielke

Greeters: Glenda Reiffenberger & Ev Johnson

Coffee Servers: Circle 4

Weekly Calendar

Sun – 9/10 GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY

9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO & FB Live

9:30 am God's Work Our Hands Community Service

10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-recorded

11:00 am Potluck Lunch at the Church

Mon – 9/11 PATRIOT DAY

10:00 am Staff Meeting

7:00 pm Council Meeting

Tues – 9/12 8:30 am Day of Love

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

Wed – 9/13 9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th grade)

4:30 pm Confirmation (9th grade)

5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast

7:00 pm Senior Choir

Fri – 9/15 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 9/17 RALLY & NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

9:00 am Worship – KDIO & FB Live

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Rally Sunday (at church and parents will need to stay to fill out paper work)





September 10, 2023, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 18:15-20

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 community, wherever two or three are gathered in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we know that you, Triune God, Three-in-One, are in the midst of them. As we gather together today, fill us with the awareness of your presence within and around us. Amen.



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

"Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
(Matthew 18:19-20)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus offers some practical advice to the early Christian community, and reminds them that he is in their midst whether they are in disagreement or agreement with one another.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

In what gatherings/settings do you feel the presence of God the most palpably? Where do you feel the absence of God?

What could you accomplish if you set out to do a task with two or more gathered in Jesus' name?

For the littles: Who are your favorite people? When do you get to see them all at the same time?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God gather you and bless your endeavors. Amen.



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

Invite a small group of like-minded people to coffee or lunch. Set an intention to accomplish a goal. Pray for God's guidance before you begin.



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

Monday, Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Peter 2:11-17

Tuesday, Psalm 121; Exodus 12:29-42; Romans 13:1-7

Wednesday, Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22

Thursday, Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; 1 John 3:11-16

Friday, Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16

Saturday, Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15