

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

SERVICE OF THE WORD



September 17, 2023

9:00 am

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 God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **C: Amen.**

P: Steadfast and faithful God, **C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn 'Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven' vs. 1-3 #864

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!

2. God be praised for grace and favor to our forebears in distress. God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

3. Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone; but, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great Eternal One!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847. alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005. Music: John Goss, 1800-1880.

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 Lord God, C: merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

OT pg. 37

Psalms 103:1-13

ELW Psalm 103

L: ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

C: ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

L: ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C: ⁴ who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

L: ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C: ⁶ O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

L: ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

C: ⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

L: ⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

C: ¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

L: ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

C: ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

L: ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

NT pg. 124

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music

'Seventy Times Seven'

Senior Choir

Written by Joseph M. Martin with Music by Joel Raney.

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 18:21-35

NT pg. 15-16

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

'Where Charity and Love Prevail'

#359

1. Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

2. With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.

3. Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son; as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

4. Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease. Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.

5. Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess, that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Music: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842.
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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.

Welcome New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household.

R: (Name/s have come to our congregation from name of congregation in location)

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*Sisters and brothers in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?*

Those being welcomed respond: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

R: Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Prayers for the People of God

P: ... Merciful God. **C: Receive our prayer.**

MEAL

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn 'Blessed Assurance' #638

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)

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

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 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.**

Closing Hymn

'Rise, Shine, You People'

#665

- 1. Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.**
- 2. See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.**
- 3. Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.**
- 4. Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.**

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt. Music: Dale Wood, 1934-2003. Text & Music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House.

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 in memory of Ralph Quade, Kathy Randall's dad who would have been 92 on September 6th. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week]. 2024 cards are 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. 


Today we are welcoming our new members, Ryan and Amanda Stattelmann and their daughter, Winnie, sponsored by Sara & Josh Wollschlager; and John and Lila Salls, sponsored by Kim & Jon Anderson.

Rally Sunday activities will be held at the church after service. Parents will be expected to stay and fill out paperwork.

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.

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. 

There is a Memory Cafe in Ortonville that meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the Lower Level of the Ortonville Library from 1-3 pm

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.

CentraCare Hospice currently has a high need for volunteers in the Dawson area. Please see the posted flyers to learn more about this opportunity to help others.

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.

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 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

Coffee Servers: Circle 4

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—September 24th – Bible Presentation Sunday

Greeters: Josh, Sara, & Liv Wollschlager

Acolytes: Liv & Owen

Organist: Amy Adelman

Lector: David Ellingson

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Coffee Servers: TBD

Ushers: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Jackie & Mel Domine

Weekly Calendar

Sun – 9/17 RALLY & NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

9:00 am Worship – KDIO & FB Live

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Rally Sunday

Mon – 9/18 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 9/19 8:30 am Day of Love

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

Wed – 9/20 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

Thurs – 9/14 9:00 am LqP Conference Pastors Meeting Here

Fri – 9/15 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 9/24 BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY

9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – KDIO & FB Live

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School





September 17, 2023,

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 18:21-35

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, you have forgiven us far more and more often than we deserve. Make us equally forgiving to all those in our lives, that we may live together in harmony, in Jesus name. Amen.



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

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The disciples asked Jesus how many times they should forgive. Jesus' response was clear. We can continue to forgive over and over again.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

In our litigating society, how does culture view justice? How does it view forgiveness? What might happen if people practiced forgiveness over blame and the need for restitution?

Who stands in need of your forgiveness? What would it take to make you ready to forgive?

For the littles: Have you ever told someone, “I forgive you”? What did it feel like? Jesus is happy when we forgive.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you strength to forgive. Amen.



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

Follow a court case that is spotlighted in the media. Identify places where Jesus’ words for forgiveness might break in. How would extravagant forgiveness alter the outcome of the trial?



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

Monday, Psalm 77; Joshua 3:1-17; Hebrews 11:23-29

Tuesday, Psalm 77; Nehemiah 9:9-15; Romans 14:13-15:2

Wednesday, Psalm 77; 2 Kings 2:1-18; Mark 11:20-25

Thursday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 15:22-27; 2 Cor. 13:1-4

Friday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:1-21; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Saturday, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:22-30; Matthew 19:23-30