

*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

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 24, 2023 BIBLE PRESENTATION - SERVICE OF THE WORD

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 Hym

'Great Is Thy Faithfulness'

#733

**1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

*(Refrain):* **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960. Music: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957.  
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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: Almighty and eternal God, C: you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson: Jonah 3:10--4:11

OT pg. 668

Psalm 145:1-8

ELW Psalm 145

L: <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

C: <sup>2</sup> **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

L: <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

C: <sup>4</sup> **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

L: <sup>5</sup> I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous

works.

**C: <sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

L: <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**C: <sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

NT pg. 152

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Bible Presentation

Pastor Denise, Kaitlyn Burdorf, & Ashley Hanson

P: Dear friends in Christ, it wasn't that long...to help fulfill this pledge.

*Present bibles to children, then...*

Presenter: Receive the Word of God. Learn its stories and study its words. Its stories belong to us all, and these words speak to us all. They tell us who we are. They tell us that we belong to one another, for we are the people of God.

**Congregation to children: We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your church school classes, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word.**

**ALL: The Word of God is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Noisy Offering

Special Music

'A Place to Belong'

Senior Choir

*Also featuring Pete & Carmen Zupfer (Guitar), & Eliot Dorry (Cajón)*

*Words by Stephanielynn Būda. Music by Brian & Stephanielynn Būda*

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 20:1-16

NT pg. 17

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

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

**1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy: be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace: be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm: be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953. Text © Oxford University Press 1931. Music: Irish Traditional.

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

**MEAL****Offering Collection and Presentation**

Offeratory Hymn

'As Saints of Old'

#695

**1. As saints of old their firstfruits brought of orchard, flock, and field to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield; so we today firstfruits would bring, the wealth of this good land, of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

**2. A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give; to make our life an offering to God, that all may live. The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true: a world redeemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.**

**3. In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way. O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son, teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt. Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Arr. © Oxford University Press.

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 Up, O Saints of God!' verses 1, 3, 5

#669

**1. Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn; Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.**

**3. Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace; redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.**

**5. Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!**

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936, © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: William H. Walker, 182501893.

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.

**KDIO Radio Broadcast** is sponsored in honor of our awesome family – Ron & Ginger Athey – Ronda & Russ Thielke – Dawn & (Doug) Leger & families from Terry Block and family. [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](http://www.firstenglish.net).



**May the God of all consolation with** the family of Doug Leger, father of Carmen Zupfer, and brother-in-law to Ronda Thielke, Ginger Athey, and Terry Block. He passed away September 17<sup>th</sup>.


**Happy Birthday wishes go out** to JoAnn Hasslen whose birthday is tomorrow and Lois Bergeson whose birthday is this Friday.

**Congratulation and God's Blessing** to the following 3-year-olds and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who will receive their Bibles this morning. **3-year-olds:** Eleanor, Lynken, Katelynn, Silas, and Lyla **and 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders:** Wiley, Maliah, Maizie, Nicholas, Landri, and Joey.


**There will be a meeting after service** at 10:15 am in the Youth Room for any youth, grades 8-12, who may be interested in attending the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We would like the youth and a parent to attend so we can begin to get things figured out.

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

**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.

**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 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](mailto:secretary@firstenglish.net).

**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. 

**REMINDER:** Calendar and other important information is on our website at [www.firstenglish.net](http://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 24<sup>th</sup> – Bible Presentation Sunday

**Greeters:** Josh, Sara, & Liv Wollschlager

**Acolytes:** Liv & Owen

**Organist:** Amy Adelman

**Lector:** David Ellingson

**Tech Desk:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

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

## Next Week's Ministry Assistants—October 1<sup>st</sup>

**Greeters:** Jon & Kim Anderson

**Acolytes:** Bennett & Bryson

**Organist:** Kathy Haukos

**Lector:** Liv Wollschlager

**Tech Desk:** Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson    **Lay Assistants:** Kristi & Darin Ehrenberg

**Ushers:** Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson

**FVW:** Kristi & Darin Ehrenberg

**Coffee Servers:** Weber & Schmeichel

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

## Weekly Calendar

### **Sun – 9/24 BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY**

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

10:00 am Sunday School

10:15 am Youth Gathering Informational Meeting

10:20 am WAM

**Mon – 9/25** 10:00 am Staff Meeting

**Tues – 9/26** 8:30 am Day of Love

12:00 pm Executive Meeting

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

### **Wed – 9/27 EARLY OUT**

9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

1:45 pm Confirmation (7-8<sup>th</sup> graders)

2:45 pm Confirmation (9<sup>th</sup> graders)

5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast

7:00 pm Senior Choir

**Fri – 9/29** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

**Sun – 10/1** 9:00 am Worship – Communion – David Bartels' Baptism – KDIO & FB Live

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Sunday School with Baptism party to follow.

10:30 am Fairway View Worship LIVE

1:00 pm Howard Janssen Burial at Eidskog Cemetery





September 24, 2023,

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 20:1-16

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



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

Gracious God, you call us all into your holy work, and reward according to your generosity, rather than our deserving. Give us the same heart of generosity toward others, in Jesus' name. Amen.



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

*"Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last." (Matthew 20:14-16)*



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

Jesus told a parable that was hard to hear. Laborers hired at the end of the day were paid the same as the laborers that toiled all day long. But God's generosity is good news if you came late to the game.



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

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

**Where are wages just and where are they unjust within your community? What would happen if Jesus' idea of abundant generosity was played out in your community?**

**What difference does it make to your life that you have been given abundant, unearned, generous love from God?**

**For the littles: What does it feel like to get more than you were expecting? God is a generous giver—God gives us much more than we expect!**



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

**May God surprise you with more. Amen.**



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

**Be an extravagant tipper this week. Notice how practicing abundant generosity changes you.**



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

Monday, Psalm 119:97-104; Exodus 16:31-35; Romans 16:1-16

Tuesday, Psalm 119:97-104; Numbers 11:1-9; Romans 16:17-20

Wednesday, Psalm 119:97-104; Num. 11:18-23, 31-32; Matt. 18:1-5

Thursday, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Isaiah 48:17-21; James 4:11-16

Friday, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 20:1-13; Acts 13:32-41

Saturday, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Numbers 27:12-14; Mark 11:27-33