

**ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Athol, KS

**September 14, 2025**  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: *Baptised in Water (video)*

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS p.56

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for self-reflection*

L: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

GREETING p.57

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## KYRIE ELESION (open TIMELINE for accompaniment)

### HYMN OF PRAISE ("Glory to God in the highest...") p.58-59

(open TIMELINE for accompaniment)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

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.

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

### SALUTATION. p.62 (ACAPPELLA)

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY p.62

L: Let us pray.....

**C: O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING - Ezekiel 34:11-24

L: The First Lesson is from the 34<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezekiel.

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. 17 As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats: 18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? 19 And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet and drink what you have fouled with your feet? 20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he

shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

L: Here ends the reading.

PSALM 119:169-176

L: We will read the Psalm responsively.

169 Let my cry come before you, O Lord;  
give me understanding according to your word.

**170 Let my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.**

171 My lips will pour forth praise,  
because you teach me your statutes.

**172 My tongue will sing of your promise,  
for all your commandments are right.**

173 Let your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.

**174 I long for your salvation, O Lord,  
and your law is my delight.**

175 Let me live that I may praise you,  
and let your ordinances help me.

**176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:5-11

L: The Second Lesson is from the 1st chapter of 1 Timothy.

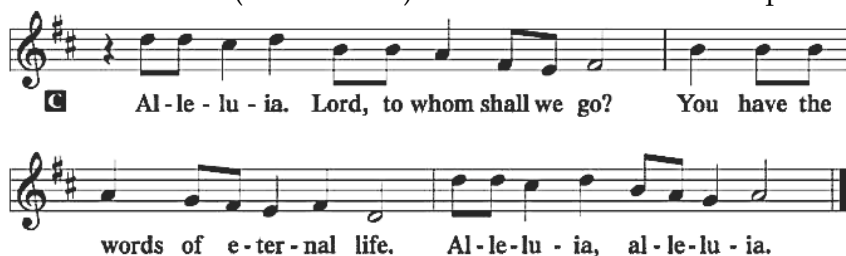
5 But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. 6 Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions. 8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately; 9 this means understanding that the law is laid down not for the righteous but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, 10 the sexually immoral, men who engage in illicit sex, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the

sound teaching 11 that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I was entrusted.

L: Here ends the reading.

## GOSPEL VERSE (ACAPELLA)

p.62



## HOLY GOSPEL

L: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

## (ACAPELLA)



## Luke 15:1-10

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable: 4 "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and

neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

(ACAPPELLA)



SONG: *I Am Jesus Little Lamb* (video)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Pastor Ann Auten

"I Just Want to Be a Sheep....Baa!"

SONG AFTER SERMON: *Borning Cry* (video)

BAPTISM (SHOW BAPTISM SLIDE)

**Presentation (SHOW PRESENTATION SLIDE)**

L: In Holy Baptism, our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

L: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

**Parents: We do.**

L: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

To live with her among God's faithful people.

To bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,

To teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
To place in her hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that your child may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and help her lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.  
Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents: We do.**

L: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Levee Lyna Jo Frieling in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Sponsors: We do.**

**(ADVANCE TO THE NEXT SLIDE HERE)**

L: People of God, do you promise to support Levee Lyna Jo Frieling and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**C: We do.**

**Profession of Faith (SHOW PROFESSION OF FAITH SLIDE)**

L: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

L: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God then answer:

We renounce them.

**C: We renounce them.**

L: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God then answer:

We renounce them.

**C: We renounce them.**

L: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God then answer:



We renounce them.

**C: We renounce them.**

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Thanksgiving at the Font: (THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT SLIDE)**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**(BAPTISM SLIDE)**

**Pour the water.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**Baptism: Levee Lyna Jo Frieling**

L: I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia!

L: Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give new birth, a cleansing from sin, and eternal life.

**(Laying Hands on Levee's head)**

L: Sustain Levee Lyna Jo with your Holy Spirit: The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

**(Anointing Oil on Forehead)**

**(ADVANCE TO THE NEXT SLIDE HERE)**

L: Levee Lyna Jo, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Let us welcome the newly baptized!

**C. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## RECEIVE OFFERING

OFFERTORY (*Thank You Lord – 2vs*) (ACAPPELLA)

Thank you for giving me the morning.

Thank you for ev'ry day that's new.

Thank you that I can know my worries

Can be cast on you.

Thank you, O Lord, your love is boundless.

Thank you that I am full of you.

Thank you, you made me feel so glad  
and thankful as I do.

## OFFERING PRAYER

p.74

L: Let us pray,

**C: Father, we come before you with joyful hearts, eager to give back a portion of what you have given us. May our tithes and offerings be a blessing to others as they have been to us. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

p.75-76

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ

Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

p. 76

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...

**C: 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.**

BENEDICTION & AMEN

p. 74

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

CLOSING SONG: *Holy Water (video)*

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sept. 16 @ 2:00 pm - Monthly Women's Bible Study  
@ 7:00 pm – Youth/Adult Book Study -  
“We Shall Live in Heaven”

Sept. 17 @ 9:00 am – Morning Circle

Sept. 17 @ 9:00 am - Noon Pastor's Office Hours

Sept. 17 @ Noon – Bulletin Deadline

Prayer Chain this week: Pastor David Kramer

Congratulations to Brody and Lynzee Frieling whose daughter, Levee Lyna Jo, was baptized today! Grandparents: Sherri and Cory Frieling and Great-Grandparents: Brenda and Gary Frieling.

Stay tuned for an upcoming Fall Youth Event to kick off our year in the next few weeks!

Confirmation begins on Sept. 24th - 6:00-7:30 PM Wednesdays  
Bible Camp for 3rd Graders - 4:30-5:45 PM Wednesdays  
October 1st, 8th, and 15th with Pastor Ann  
Parents are asked to attend on October 15th

October 19th - Mission Festival! - Pastor Siimon Haamer  
Tartu Academy and Home of Hope in Estonia Lunch and  
Presentation to follow church service.

Read: “We Shall Live in Heaven” Books still available! See Pastor Ann!

Next Week's Scripture Readings - Sept. 21st

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

Gospel: Luke 16:1-15

Sermon Title: “Another Tricky Bible Reading!”

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