

Order of Worship for Sept 12, 2021

Rally Sunday

Prelude by Shirley Bergman

Welcome

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand if you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.**Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW 595 Jesus Loves Me

**1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.**

Refrain

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

**2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. *Refrain***

**3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. *Refrain***

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. ***O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Blessing of the Backpacks

Let us pray.

God of fresh starts and new beginnings,

we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.

Last year was different from what we expected. We learned at home, in masks six feet apart, or both. In all these changes, we may have felt sad and alone.

God, our friend who comforts us, hold us close and wipe our tears.

In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all.

Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.

However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new.

For the grown-ups going back to school with us, God, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow.

God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands. Amen.

Special Music song by VBS kids-- "Great Big Beautiful World"

Distribution of Bibles

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

A Reading from Isaiah

4The Lord God has given me

the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

5The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

6I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

9It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

1 I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

**2 For the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

3 The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon
me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

4 Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

5 Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

6 The LORD watches over the innocent;

I was brought low, and God saved me.

7 Turn again to your rest, O my soul.

for the LORD has dealt well with you.

8 For you have rescued my life from death,

my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;

9 I will walk in the presence of the LORD

in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

A Reading from James

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 Or look

at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation from ELW Setting 3 (Alleluia)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

The holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29 He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The Assembly is seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: HOD 677 This Little Light of Mine

**1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,**

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Apostles' Creed

Please stand if you are able

**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 OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Healing God, you bring wholeness out of brokenness. Grant strength and endurance to all who are experiencing extra stress due to the Covid pandemic, especially school staff and medical staff. Comfort all who mourn the loss of loved ones, and bring healing to all who are in any kind of need, especially Stephanie Winklepleck, Dennis Bushkofsky, and all who we name in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand if you are able

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,

you pour out the fire of your Spirit,

uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY from ELW Setting 3

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

All are invited to come forward and receive the bread and wine. Individual packages are also available. If you do not feel comfortable coming forward to receive communion, Pastor will bring it to your seat.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The Assembly is seated

SENDING HYMN ELW 543 Go My Children, with My Blessing

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,**

here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

And have fun doing it.

We will! Amen!

Postlude by Shirley Bergman

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Attendance 9/5/21: 27

8/31/21

Current: 10,604.22

Bank Loan: \$0.00 Balance :)

Offering:9/5/21

Current: \$3,310

Benevolence: \$132

Improvement: \$135

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Military members: Jordan Leach is home from Sheppard AFB TX. Both he and Justin are at the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, IA. If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org or call 319 827-6626. We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

Service Time Change: Starting September 5th, ALC worship service will move to 10 AM.

Ushers Needed: We are looking for individuals and families to add to our usher pool. You will be trained or paired with a mentor. If it happens that you cannot usher for the date you signed, please contact a substitute or head usher, Wayne Schneider.

2waynester@gmail.com

Lutheran World Relief School Kits: For many years, American Lutheran has prepared backpack school kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief which we would like to continue again this year. Supplies are needed to fill the backpacks. Back to School sales have begun with parents beginning to shop for the supplies needed for their children. We are requesting that, as you shop, you also include purchasing some of the supplies needed to fill our backpacks. Our goal is to make and fill 30 backpacks. Please see the bulletin board in the Upper Narthex to take a colored slip of paper or two of items that are needed to place in the backpacks. A table has been set up in the Upper Narthex to place your donations. Or you may leave them at the home of Shirley Bergman at 1115 6th Street. We are asking that supplies be brought by Sunday, September 26th. Thank you for your continued support of this mission support program. The school kits will be blessed in worship service prior to packing them for delivery to the Fall Ingathering at New Hampton on October 16th, which is much earlier than past years.

- 70 sheet 8x10 ½ notebooks, wide or college rule
- black or blue ballpoint pens – **no gel ink**
- 30 cm ruler, or ruler with cm and inches
- **unsharpened** #2 pencils with eraser
- box of 16 or 24 crayons
- blunt scissors
- pencil sharpeners
- erasers 2 ½"

Treasurer Position: Please consider serving as treasurer on the church council. We have delegated some duties to a Synod resource to help alleviate some of the responsibilities. If interested, contact a council member or the office.

Council Minutes: Council minutes are posted on the ALC website upon approval at each council meeting. They are also published in the monthly Lamps.

Prayer Shawl: Come join the Prayer Shawl ministry that meets on Tuesdays, 10 AM -noon. New members who enjoy fellowship while knitting and crocheting are welcome. The shawls and blankets will be shared with those who are ill, grieving, and in need of comfort.

Youth Group: All youth ages 5th grade through senior in high school are invited to join ALC's Youth Group. This year's theme is "Glow: Let your Light Shine" and we'll be planning monthly fun events to build community within the youth at ALC. Contact Sara Borland (319-230-8223) or Beth Stanek (319-427-4453) if you'd like to get involved.

Our next youth group event will be **Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 6 PM** in the Fellowship Hall at ALC. We'll be having a **"unique" supper, minute-to-win-it games, and hear about the National Youth Gathering from the Hoey family.** This youth event will take the place of regular confirmation class that evening. Please let Sara or Beth know if you're planning to attend so we know how much food to plan.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class for this year's 7th & 8th graders will begin on Wednesday, Sept 8 at 6pm. Class will meet on Wednesday evenings, and will meet at 6pm for the month of September, and 7pm after that.

Bishop Installation

The new Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, Rev. Kevin Jones, will be installed at a special worship service at 2pm on Saturday, September 25. The service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City, and will also be livestreamed on the Synod Facebook and YouTube pages.

Camp EWALU Quilt Auction

This year's quilt auction at Camp EWALU will be held both online Sept 13-17 and in person on Sept 18. For more information go to <http://ewalu.org/event/2021-fall-festival-quilt-auction/>.

God's Work, Our Hands-- This year our congregation's project for God's Work, Our Hands, will be to help the Independence Food Pantry when they get new flooring the last week of September. Helpers are needed on the following days/times, for the following tasks:
Friday Sept. 24th 3pm to 7pm ish, Food and furniture removal and packing
Sat Sept 25th 10 am to ???, Painting

Sun Sept 26th, Finish Painting if needed

Wed Sep 29th 9am to ???, move furniture

Saturday Oct 2nd 9 am to ???, moving furniture back in place , unpacking to get ready to reopen.

You may sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F48A5AB2DA1F94-food>

Or after worship.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

The ladies of the ALC will once again be involved in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We will begin in October at a date and time to be determined. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please talk to Sharon McAtee, Kaye Jones or Mary Adams. We welcome all eager helpers!

Caring Bridge and Meal Train information for Stephanie Witt Winkelpleck and family

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stephaniewittwinkelpleck>. Look under the Journal tab for the meal train link. Steph has been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Thanks for your continued support.

ALC Mass email list has recently been revised. Please contact the office

secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org for corrections to this list.

Rally Sunday: ALC is hosting Rally Sunday at Land O'Corn Park (downtown pavilion) on September 12th. Worship is at 10 AM with blessing of school backpacks, followed by activities and a pork burger lunch. Please bring your table service and drinks. Kick off the Sunday School year with us!

Fall Fun and Fellowship The Parish Ed Committee, along with the church council, has initiated a unique idea to revitalize our **Sunday School and fellowship** with the goal to involve more members, lessen the strain on Parish Ed, and have more meaningful time together as a church family. This **Intergenerational** concept is an opportunity for all ages to share stories, talents, and wisdom through lessons, mixers, and tasks while being tied to a lesson, Bible story, or values that we hope to instill in our youth. With all the changes that have occurred this past year, we hope that you will come with an open heart ready to find new ways to serve and encourage our church family.

ALC Bible study has decided to switch up our study this fall. The Women of Christmas, by Liz Curtis Higgs, will be a timely preparatory Christmas study of Anna, Mary, and Elizabeth. We will be reading the book along with the accompanying study guide starting in October. As we would love to increase our study circle members to include those who may work, both men and women, we would consider meeting at a time more convenient to others. Let us know of your interest and we can work out a time to meet.

Congratulations to the following 3rd graders who will receive Bibles today:

Kash Niichel

Erick Rod

Chloe Bergman

Stella Distler