

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020

WELCOME

It is a joy to have you here at worship with us today. We especially remember those who are not able to be with us this morning and keep them in our prayers.

For the safety of all, we ask throughout the worship service that you please wear your face mask. If it becomes troublesome to breathe, please excuse yourself and go to the hallway (if possible) prior to removing your mask. We understand that breathing may be challenging for several of us, feel free to leave if you need to.

If you are in need of a mask, please let our ushers know.

The Coronavirus spreads easily through singing, so we are not having congregational singing for a while. As you may have anticipated, projecting our voices also extends the distance of the virus spreading, so it is recommended that you use your library voice as you speak responses in our worship service today.

Following worship today, please let us know if you have suggestions for future services. We are all learning new ways together.

Visitors are invited to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today. Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.

Children are always welcome in church.

Large print bulletins for today's worship are available. Feel free to ask an usher if interested.

When leaving, please take your bulletin with you so others do not need to touch the same paper.

Pastor Nicholson will be available outside following worship to talk with you. You are encouraged to exit the building and talk with persons outdoors as well.

If by chance you contract the virus in the next couple of days, please let the church know so we can try to contact those who sat near you.

GATHERING

PRELUDE / WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Faithful God, have **mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness

to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

WORD

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’

So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’

¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, hear **our prayer.**

MEAL

OFFERING *Returning our thanks to God with our offering is a regular part of our worship service. To reduce the odds of spreading the coronavirus, we have placed the offering plates at the entrances to our worship service. You are encouraged to present your gifts to God as you leave worship today.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray: **God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

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.

THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thank; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this in 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

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

**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

Friends of Jesus, come to the table.

Receive nourishment for your journey. **Thanks be to God.**

You may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD (*You are invited to hum along and meditate on the words.*)

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.

Communion: *All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's table.*

UPSTAIRS

To receive Holy Communion, with the usher's direction,

- *with your mask on, please come down the center aisle, keeping 6 foot distance between you and the household in front of you.*
- *When you reach the pastor, please leave on your face mask.*
- *The pastor will gently drop a wafer of bread in your hand and say the words "The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you."*
- *Then proceed to the altar rail where the communion assistant has placed a prefilled wine cup on the rail. These cups will be 6 ft apart.*
- *If you are needing to receive grape juice rather than wine go to the far end of the communion rail by the piano.*
- *When you arrive at the rail you may take off your mask and consume both the bread and the wine.*
- *Please put your mask back on before leaving the communion rail.*
- *You may dispose of your cup in the trash can on the way back to your seat.*

If you would like the Pastor to bring communion to you in your seat, please indicate that to the usher.

We ask that children or adults who would prefer to receive a spoken blessing rather than communion come down the center aisle and make the sign of the cross on your own or on your child's forehead. The pastor will speak a word of blessing.

If you prefer to stay in your seat and not receive a blessing or communion yet, you are welcome to do so. God understands.

DOWNSTAIRS

Small individual tables have been placed at each of the far ends of the communion rail on both sides (so the TV can still be seen in the middle). On the table is a plate with a prefilled cup and a wafer. This is covered with a piece of plastic. The communion server will come down and speak the words "The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you." The person receiving communion will then remove the plastic, consume the elements and throw away the cup, plate, and piece of plastic in the trash can provided.

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

(You are invited to hum with the music and meditate on the words.)

- 1 For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
- 2 By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.
- 3 With the saints who now adore you, seated at the heav'nly board,
may the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
- 4 In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.

Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

(You are invited to hum with the music and meditate on the words.)

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.
- 4 By thee my prayers acceptance gain although with sin defiled.
The devil charges me in vain, and I am owned a child.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Remember in your prayers...

Tom Cover (9/24)

Ernie Fricke

Elva Kroeger

Evelyn Scott

Grace Williams (10/17)

Sandy Curfman

Karen Hockensmith (9/24)

Dia Schumacher (9/23)

John Shearer (10/9)

Jim Woods (9/28)

Aloma Dawkins

Nancy Jacobs

John Newcomer

James Warne

Private Parker Brown



Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of our parents,
Robert and Jane Palmer and John and Dorothy Lawyer
by Robert and Nancy Lawyer.

Prayers: Nancy Hamilton

Soundboard: Bob Lawyer

Holy Communion Servers: Sanctuary - Tim Gotwald Chapel - Karen Sloan

August 30 Attendance: In person: 50
On line 91 views x 2 = 182 (ELCA formula)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday	6:30 p.m.	White Savior: Racism in the American Church via zoom – council and congregation
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPETS

“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 first will be last.” –

Matthew 20:15-16

In this parable Jesus reminds us that it is God’s nature to be generous and that God has special concern for the poor and marginalized. We often assume that everyone gets what we deserve by the strength of our own will and bootstraps.
God has other ideas and loves all people.

Pastoral Care Pastor Nicholson is out of the office from September 22 through September 28. On September 27 a recorded service led by the synod will be shown during worship. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please call the church office and let the secretary know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY



Theo Camara has accepted the position of part-time Director of Faith Formation and Technology at First Lutheran. He will begin his position with First Lutheran on Monday, October 5. Theo and his wife live in Mont Alto. Please take a moment to greet him when you are here.

KEYCARDS The church is moving to using keycards rather than keys to enter the exterior of the building. The doors will be automatically unlocked during office hours and on Sunday mornings until the start of worship. If you plan to attend a meeting or rehearsal at church in the afternoon or evening or if you might be delayed for worship, you will need a keycard. Please stop by the church office to acquire a keycard on Sunday, September 27 either before or after worship or Mon. to Thurs. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WHITE SAVIOR: RACISM IN THE AMERICAN CHURCH The congregation council of First Lutheran will be watching this movie via zoom on Monday evening, September 21 at 6:30 p.m. The movie is 62 minutes long. We will have a discussion following. The congregation is invited to join us as we work to be proactive against racism. The Zoom meeting id is 835 377 66068. The DVD will be available in the church library to be checked out following our large group viewing. May God guide our nation and our church in these challenging times.

JESUS: The God Who Knows Your Name Pastor Nicholson will be leading a Zoom (on-line) Bible Study Group beginning Tuesday, September 27 – November 10 at 6:30. The study is based on Max Lucado's book, "Jesus: The God Who Knows your Name." We will watch together a DVD during the hour-long study. Let pastor know of your interest so you have the zoom information to connect to the study. If you lack confidence in zoom, but would like to participate, please speak with Pastor Nicholson and she will work with you. Looking forward to engaging in God's word in this new way. Join us!

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES On October 4 we will be honoring the ordination anniversaries of Pastor Charles Kampmeyer (65 years) and Pastor Warren Heintzelman (40 years.) Pastor Heintzelman is the interim pastor in Mercersburg and is unable to join us on that day. Please express to them your appreciation of their ministry.

BLESSING OF QUILTS and KITS The blessing of Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts will take place during worship on Sunday, October 11. The layettes, school kits, health kits and quilts have already been transported to Church World Services so that they may be shipped as quickly as possible. The place that was storing and distributing these items in Baghdad had a fire, so our items were greatly needed and have been sent. The items will be blessed in abstinence.



COLLECTION OF CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS SUSPENDED

Due to Covid 19 the Neighborhood Task Team will not be distributing coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, towels, etc. at our “Mega Event” this year. **Please do not bring any more of these items to the church at this time.** We thank all of you who have been so generous with your gifts for our neighbors in need and we hope to begin collecting again in 2021 for an event next year. Beginning in October we will be hanging cold weather items that we have already received on the fence along Washington St. We plan to take towels and blankets to the Laundromat on the day we hand out quarters and detergent.

BACK PACK PROGRAM September suggested items are: graham crackers, light popcorn, whole grain cereal, granola bars, and individual cereal boxes.

THE GIVE AND TAKE BOX If you are able, please pick up a few items to share. Remember this box supplies personal care items. Needed items include shampoo, deodorant, tissues, toothpaste and brushes, hand soap, body soap, laundry detergent, dish detergent, band aids, toilet paper. Thank you for your care and concern for those who need our support.

SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN CHAMBERSBURG AUXILIARY You may make a contribution to the programs the auxiliary supports at Luther Ridge for 2020. Please send your donation to Marjorie Dale, Auxiliary President, 235 Woodvale Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or Mary Jane Lindsey, Auxiliary Treasurer, 273 Cherry Lane Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202. Any questions please call Marjorie at 717-860-7544.