**Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 5, 2021 9:00 AM**

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN “In Christ Called to Baptize” ELW # 575**

1 In Christ called to baptize,

we witness to grace

and gather a people

from each land and race.

In deep, flowing waters,

we share in Christ's death,

then, rising to new life,

give thanks with each breath.

2 In Christ called to banquet,

one table we share,

a haven of welcome,

a circle of care.

Although we are many,

we share in one bread.

One cup of thanksgiving

proclaims Christ, our head.

3 In Christ called to witness,

by grace we will preach

the life-giving gospel;

God's love we will teach.

By grace may our living

give proof to our praise

in costly compassion

reflecting Christ's ways.

4 Unite us, anoint us,

O Spirit of love,

for you are within us,

around us, above.

Equip us for service

with gifts you bestow.

In Christ is our calling.

In Christ may we grow.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

4Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
  “Be strong, do not fear!  
 Here is your God.  
  He will come with vengeance,  
 with terrible recompense.  
  He will come and save you.”

5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
  and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
 6then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
  and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
  and streams in the desert;  
 7athe burning sand shall become a pool,  
  and the thirsty ground springs of water.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 146 Reading Responsively**

1Hallelujah!  
  Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
2**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**  
  **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

3Put not your trust in rulers,  
  in mortals in whom there is no help.  
 4**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**  
  **and in that day their thoughts perish.**

5Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
  whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
6**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**  
  **who keeps promises forever;**

7who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
  The Lord sets the captive free.  
8**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

9The Lord cares for the stranger;  
  the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
10**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

**Second Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God’s will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

1My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” 4have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?  
  8You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 9But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

14What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

**Gospel: Mark 7:24-37**

*In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus’ ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

24[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,25but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 28But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” 29Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” 30So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.  
  31Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” 35And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

### The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON Wherein Is Our Hope?**  **Pastor Tim Larson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” ELW #597**

1 My hope is built on nothing less

than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

no merit of my own I claim,

but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain*  On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;

all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,

I rest on his unchanging grace;

in ev'ry high and stormy gale

my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood

sustain me in the raging flood;

when all supports are washed away,

he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,

oh, may I then in him be found,

clothed in his righteousness alone,

redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

**THANKSGIVING**

**apostles’ creed elw 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 OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. 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.**

**OFFERING INTERLUDE**  - Ushers will bring offering forward following interlude

**OFFERTORY** - **“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord” ELW p. 181**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

and ﬁll to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence,

and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**MEAL**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

**“Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil” (Sung X 2) ELW # 512**

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**“We Come to the Hungry Feast” ELW # 479**

1 We come to the hungry feast

hungry for a word of peace.

To hungry hearts unsatisfied

the love of God is not denied.

We come, we come to the hungry feast.

2 We come to the hungry feast

hungry for a world released

from hungry folk of ev'ry kind,

the poor in body, poor in mind.

We come, we come to the hungry feast.

3 We come to the hungry feast

hungry that the hunger cease,

and knowing, though we eat our fill,

the hunger will stay with us; still

we come, we come to the hungry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Text © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 **“Now We Join in Celebration” ELW # 462**

1 Now we join in celebration

at our Savior's invitation,

dressed no more in spirit somber,

clothed instead in joy and wonder;

for the Lord of all existence,

putting off divine transcendence,

stoops again in love to meet us,

with his very life to feed us.

2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,

fill our hearts with holy rapture!

For this bread and cup of blessing

are for us the sure possessing

of your loving deed on Calv'ry,

of your living self, our vict'ry,

pledge of your unfailing presence,

foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

3 Lord, we share in this communion

as one fam'ly of God's children,

reconciled through you, our brother,

one in you with God our Father.

Give us grace to live for others,

serving all, both friends and strangers,

seeking justice, love, and mercy

till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen

Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” ELW # 502**

1 The King of love my shepherd is,

whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am his

and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,

my ransomed soul he leadeth

and, where the verdant pastures grow,

with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,

but yet in love he sought me,

and on his shoulder gently laid,

and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,

with thee, dear Lord, beside me,

thy rod and staff my comfort still;

thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;

thine unction grace bestoweth;

and, oh, what transport of delight

from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,

thy goodness faileth never.

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise

within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us

through the healing power of this gift of life;

and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us,

through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love

toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”**  **ELW # 674**

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,

reaching out with a shout of joy:

bread is broken, the wine is poured,

Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Refrain*  Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,

pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,

pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,

at the table he sets the tone,

teaching people to live to bless,

love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out

bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

gives us love to tell, bread to share:

God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Pastor – Pastor Tim Larson

Musicians – Alison Nelson & Mariah Rudningen

Lector – Viva Lundberg

Ushers – Jerry and Viva Lundberg

Acolytes –

Communion Assistant – Sue Nelson

Greeter- Kristin and Adam Schmidt

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* The Family of Pastor Bill Miller, Kathy Schol, Dennis Doering, Donna Baker, and Calvin Carls

**Stewardship Snippet:**  **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost , Sept. 5, 2018**

**James 2:15 –** If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?  
*For many of us who have more than we need, it’s very hard to follow Jesus’ command to love our neighbor as ourselves. The questions steward/disciples have to ask prayerfully are, “How generous am I, really? Is God calling me to be more generous?”*

*--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**Fellowship Hour:** Please join us for coffee and fellowship this morning in the parish hall following worship services.

**This Week . . .**

**Wednesday, September 8**

6:30 pm Confirmation Orientation – Parents & Youth/6th–10th Grade

7:15 pm Confirmation Orientation – Parents & Youth/11th Grade

8:00 pm Church Council

**Saturday, September 11**

9:30 am WELCA Unit Meeting in Fellowship Hall

**Next Sunday, September 12, 2021**: **The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Baptism and Noisy Offering. Service is both in person and Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday School Kickoff

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

11:00 am – 1:00 pm Luther League Kickoff and planning in Fellowship Hall with grilling and kickball at Centennial Park

**Noisy Offering:** Sunday, September 12th the KLC children will be passing the noisy offering pails during our worship service. This offering is designated to go to the KMS Backpack program. With the school year starting comes the beginning of the backpack program again. Please consider a donation to this program as the account is getting low again. Thank you!

**WELCA Quilting:** WELCA has suspended quilting at the church until later in the year due to the increase in Covid cases in our area.

**Luther League:** Letters were sent to all Luther League families with information on the schedule and calendar for coffee fellowship serving and also an invitation to attend the KLC Luther League Kickoff on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Plans are for a kickball game at Centennial Park, grilling together for lunch and to do some planning for the year ahead. Bring your ideas of what you would like to do for the upcoming year. Families are also invited to join in the fun and fellowship.

**Sunday School:** The Board of Christian Education is actively seeking teachers for this year's Sunday School classes, which will begin on Sunday, Sept. 12th. Teachers will work in teams, have reasonably sized classes of combined grade levels, and teach with user-friendly, printed curriculum. You do not need to be a Bible expert, parent, or classroom teacher to get involved! All teachers will be invited to a teacher meeting prior to the start of Sunday School. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and contact any board member to learn more.

**Confirmation Information:** Plans are in place for the beginning of Confirmation. Letters were mailed to parents of all confirmands on our current membership list. If you did not receive a letter or are interested in having your child attend KLC confirmation please contact the church office.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is in need or 2 additional people to work with another team member to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. For more information contact Barb Norton: [barb@theinwell.com](mailto:barb@theinwell.com) or 320-894-2128. Thank you.

**KLC Church Council:** The KLC Church Council will meet on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Note this is a change in time due to the Confirmation orientation meetings that will be taking place earlier in the evening. Church boards who plan to meet prior to the Council meeting should make plans to meet in another room in the church.

**Thank You:**  Thank you to the people who delivered the Meals on Wheels during August: Kay Brendemuehl, Jean Lilly, Sandy Rothers and Ann Hanson. We will next be responsible for the delivery of these meals in December.

**Food and Fun:** Thursday Food and Fun will be having Coffee and Cookies on Thursday, Sept 9 at the Kerkhoven Civic Center. Feel free to bring some bars or quick bread to pass. Don't forget to tell your neighbors, bring a friend and see you there!

**24 TH ANNUAL TABLE FAIR:** WELCA is again planning a Table Fair. The date will be Saturday, November 20, 2021. The theme is Together Again. All proceeds, after expenses will go to Safe Avenues. Check the newsletter and webpage for additional information.

**KLC Worship Services are also available for viewing on YouTube!**

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of September 6-10:** Church office hour will be Monday - Office closed, Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00-3:00. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464.

**Let Us Know:** If you have a prayer request to be **added or removed** from the KLC prayer list, please notify the church office. [kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com) or 320-264-2823.

**Stay In Touch:** If you have not been receiving bulletins, newsletters or prayer requests and would like to, please contact the church office with your information. [kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com) or 320-264-2823

**KLC Website:** We again have a website. It can be found at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/>

**On-Line Giving:** It is now possible to give your offering or a donation to KLC on-line at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link will now be available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and is available on our new website (see link above).

**KLC Executive Board** **Board of Christian Education**

**Ted Almen, President** Jesse Nelson Amber Doering

**Scott Mitteness, Vice Pres**. Shelly Lottman Kris Cortez

**Eric Rudningen, Treas**. \*Heidi Winter Melaine Wirth

**Beth Carlson, Secretary** Cindy Clasen

**Board of Worship & Witness** **Board of Stewardship and Finance**

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**Board of Evangelism & Outreach Board of Properties & Grounds**

Ross Carlson Christy Nystrom Jacob Carlson \*Scott Doering

Kristin Schmidt \*Alison Nelson \* Reid Carlson Ryan Carlson

Ashley Weddington Tony Olson Andrew Forsell

**KLC CALL COMMITTEE**

**Amber Doering, Chairperson Lee Meyer**

**Kristin Stivers, Secretary Leif Carlson**

**Tom Baker, Liasion to Council Julia Carlson**

**Loretta Falk**