

Ascension Lutheran Church

The American Association of Lutheran Churches
Greenhill Road and Maynard Avenue
Waterloo, Iowa (319) 233-1358



Drive-In
Tune your radio
to FM 87.9

September 27, 2020
8:30 a.m.
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers	All members of Ascension
Senior Pastor	Rev. Len Brokenshire
Associate Pastor	Rev. Mike Badenhop
Deacon	Ken Quamme
Organist	Candis Smith
Lector	Steve Moore

Sunday Worship	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Radio Broadcast (AM 1540)	8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting & Announcements

Opening Hymn

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

When morning gilds the skies
My heart awaking cries
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall
This rings my curfew call
May Jesus Christ be praised!

When mirth for music longs
This is my song of songs
May Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
Has none that can compare
With Jesus Christ be praised!

To him, my highest and best
I sing, when love possessed
May Jesus Christ be praised!
What e'er my hands begin
This blessing shall break in
May Jesus Christ be praised!

No lovelier antiphon
In all high heaven is known
Than Jesus Christ be praised!
There to the eternal Word
The eternal psalm is heard
Oh Jesus Christ be praised!

Invocation

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: 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.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

P: 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.

Declaration of God's Forgiveness (Absolution)

WE SPEAK TO GOD

Kyrie (Lord)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

P: **“Glory to God in the Highest”**
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.

Prayer of the Day

Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

18 The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

New Testament Lesson

Philippians 2:1-18

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

Response before Gospel: “Glory to you, O Lord”

²³And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and

went.³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Response after Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ"

Pulpit Hymn

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son
And bring to nought all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known,
For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church that we
May sing your praise triumphantly.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death of life.

Sermon: "As One Without Authority"

Hymn

"What Wondrous Love is This"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I Am,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity, I'll sing on.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church: Each petition concludes: "Lord in your mercy"

Congregation responds: "Hear our prayer."

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction (The Blessing)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

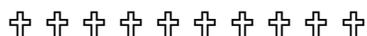
How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

Fear not! I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still on my bosom be borne.

Postlude



Welcome to all who gather today as members and friends of God's family here at Ascension! May the Holy Spirit empower this service to be an inspiration and encouragement for all.

Please keep the following Ascension members in your prayers: Rose Beier, Joel Burgess, Dennis Bush, Sherry Cox, Ivy Gibbons, Marilyn Haag, Bob Prins, Ruth Prins, Dana Walker, Marv Wentz and Donna Willig.

Congratulations to all those who celebrate birthdays or anniversaries this week:

☺ **Birthdays:** Gabe Dengler, Heather Henry, Dakota Ingham, Eddie Michel, Haley Clark, Dennis Hilmer, Jean O'Bryon, Joshua Boyce, Joshua Ingham

☺ **Anniversaries:** Shelby & Brandon Bedard, Tom & Karen Stone

Congratulations to Jean O'Bryon who celebrates her 97th birthday on September 30.

The mowing team for this week is:

- ✓ Entire “Back 40” (September 28-30) – Ken Burrington, Tom Stone
- ✓ Church Grounds (October 1-3) – Dave Else, Scott Loder

Family Night Drive-In Theater – Saturday, October 3, in the parking lot. Movie will start at 7 p.m. Students please arrive at 6:30. This is a Colorado fundraiser so we (the youth) will be selling hot dogs/chips/soda. The youth will be wearing masks when they take orders and deliver to cars. You will be able to pull up your car and tune in the radio to hear the movie. We will be watching *Woodlawn* which is rated PG.

Daily Text Devotions – Join Pastor Len and Beth in the new sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 for devotions. This 15-minute devotional time will be based off the Daily Texts, Bible texts selected annually by the Moravian church and shared worldwide since 1731. The Moravian Daily Texts were prized by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and used in his daily devotions. By asking the four TRIP questions of the biblical texts, come take a journey with the Lord that can bring change, hope, and renewal in your life as well.

Any veterans in our congregation, please call the church office to make sure we have your name on our veterans list.

Gently used comforters needed!! Ascension has recently partnered with LOVE INC. of the Cedar Valley to provide care for those in need in our community. We will maintain the Good Samaritan Fund for member needs and the food pantry. We will be referring all other requests to LOVE INC. who will in turn, refer those in need to churches who have agreed to provide for their specific needs. Ascension will be providing gas cards and bedding. We will be purchasing the sheets and pillowcases but would invite anyone with gently used comforters to donate them for distribution.

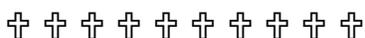
Valley Lutheran News

Valley Lutheran is filling the position of Admission and Recruitment Director. This is a part time position. For more information or to fill out an application, please email Mr. L'Heureux at brian.lheureux@vlscrusaders.org

Valley Lutheran needs volunteers for concessions during our sporting events. If interested in helping out, email Coach Jo at brian.jo@vlscrusaders.org.

The 2020 Crusader Golf Classic was held Friday, September 18 at the Waverly Golf Course. The weather was absolutely perfect for the 16 teams who enjoyed an afternoon on the golf course. Thank you to all of the sponsors, golfers and volunteers that helped to make the day awesome for everyone. Mark your calendar for next year ... Friday, September 17, 2021! Same time. Same location.

ILSTO : This year \$95,800 in tuition assistance was awarded to Valley Lutheran School students through the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. Over \$467,000 was awarded to Lutheran students in Iowa. We would like to double those amounts for 2021-2022. We are currently at 15% of our 2020 goal. Now is the time to contribute for the next school year so we can continue this great program. The benefits you receive are two-fold: 1) You get to see more children experiencing the love of God every day, and 2) You will receive a 65% tax credit on your Iowa state income taxes and a charitable deduction on your Federal return. At this time \$27,000 has been designated for Valley. For further information, please contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991. You can also download a donor form at www.iowalutheransto.org



Calendar

Mon., Sept. 28	1:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Grace Bible Study Zoom Bible Study (The Psalms)
Tues., Sept. 29	10:00 a.m.	Daily Text Devotions
Wed., Sept. 30	9:00 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Ladies' Bible Study Youth Group Hang Time AWANA Confirmation CIA
Thurs., Oct. 1	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study Daily Text Devotions
Sun., Oct. 4	8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship w/ Comm. (Chapel) Sunday School Contemporary Worship w/ Comm. (Sanctuary)

Statistics – Sunday, September 20, 2020

Attendance

8:30 a.m.	88
11:00 a.m.	101

Offering

Worship	\$6,615.00
Building Fund	\$1,460.00