



# **CALVARY LUTHERAN** **CHURCH ELCA**

“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**September 26, 2021**

## **Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Prayer Before Worship:** Lord God, by the power of your Spirit, enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds, rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls so that our lips and our lives may bear witness to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW = Worship hymnal (cranberry)

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors,** if you are worshipping with us in person or online today,  
we are glad to have you with us.*

### **Prelude Music**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **✠WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS✠**

#### **\*Confession of Sins and Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, by whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**Amen.**

Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for prayer and reflection.*

Gracious God,

**We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, ✝ you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise:**

**“He is Exalted”**

**W&P #55**

**He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high  
I will praise Him  
He is exalted forever exalted  
And I will praise His name.**

**Jesus is Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high**

**He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high  
I will praise Him  
He is exalted forever exalted  
And I will praise His name.**

**Jesus is Lord  
Forever His truth shall reign  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name  
He is exalted  
The King is exalted on high**

### **\*Greeting**

The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

Generous God,

**your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

### **First Reading: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22**

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup>On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." <sup>3</sup>Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me — that is my petition — and the lives of my people — that is my request. <sup>4</sup>For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." <sup>5</sup>Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" <sup>6</sup>Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. <sup>9</sup>Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." <sup>10</sup>So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

<sup>9:20</sup>Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup>enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, <sup>22</sup>as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 124

- <sup>1</sup>If the LORD had not been on our side,  
let Israel now say;  
<sup>2</sup>**if the LORD had not been on our side,  
when enemies rose up against us,**  
<sup>3</sup>then would they have swallowed us up alive  
in their fierce anger toward us;  
<sup>4</sup>**then would the waters have overwhelmed us  
and the torrent gone over us;**  
<sup>5</sup>then would the raging waters  
have gone right over us.  
<sup>6</sup>**Blessed be the LORD  
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**  
<sup>7</sup>We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.  
<sup>8</sup>**Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

## Second Reading: James 5:13-20

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.  
<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**

**“Celebrate Jesus”**

**Celebrate Jesus, celebrate.  
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate.  
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate.  
Celebrate Jesus, celebrate.**

**He is risen, He is risen  
And He lives forevermore.  
He is risen, He is risen;  
Come on and celebrate  
The resurrection of our Lord.**

**\*Gospel: Mark 9:38-50**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>For everyone will be salted with fire.

<sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

*Response after the gospel reading:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon:

Nancy Steele, PMA

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**\*Song of the Day:**

**“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”**

**ELW #659**

**vv. 1&4**

**1. Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.**

**4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.**

**\*Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**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 the Church:**

**ELW #752**

*(Sung Prayer Response)*

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r,  
send us grace.**

**\*Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**“Mighty is Our God”**

**Choir**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Thank you for continuing to support the work of Christ through Calvary Lutheran. The act of offering is an act of worship, wherever and whenever it is done. Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



**\*The 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.

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

**\*Benediction**

Like children in the arms of Jesus, receive God's blessing:  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ‡ give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

**"Spirit Song"**

**W&P #130**

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you  
with his Spirit and his love,  
let him fill your heart  
and satisfy your soul.  
Oh, let him have the things  
that hold you,  
and his Spirit like a dove  
will descend upon your life  
and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus,  
come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus,  
come and fill your lambs.

Repeat

## \*Dismissal

Go in peace. Welcome others as Christ has welcomed you. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude Music

## Praise Team

## Postlude

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## Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, you may notify Christy in the church office during the week or during worship use the Attendance and Prayer Request card and pass them towards the center aisle to be picked up by the ushers (for those worshipping with us online you will find the form under the worship tab on our website and prayer requests will be added to the prayer list in the bulletin the following weekend.)

## †In Our Thoughts and Prayers†

Prayers for healing: **Becky Michael** (Covid), **Patty** (Health Reasons—Lonnie Miller's sister), **Marj Nikont** (Rehab), **Mark** (Jean Collins & Kathy Johnson's cousin's husband), **Tom Bosshardt** (Back Surgery), **Elmer Haas** (Health Issues—Elnora Sell's brother-in-law), **Jennifer Randall** (Recovering from a car accident—Wally & Kathy Randall's daughter-in-law), **Jean Collins** (hip replacement surgery), **Liam** (diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy—Jude Walker's great grandson), **LaDonna Schmidt** (chemotherapy), **Greta Mehling** (Health Issues), **Bruce** (Cancer treatments—friend of Jean Collins & Cathy Johnson), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for: **Austin & Teighlor** (facing hard decision in regards to son Liam—Jude Walker's granddaughter & husband).

**H A P P Y**  
**B I R T H D A Y**

Spencer Blomenkamp, 9/30; Angie Hinze, 9/30; Susan Martin, 9/30;  
Barb Tallmon, 10/1; Jude Walker, 10/1

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.



**YOUR GIVING ONLINE**

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website:  
[www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the  
**Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now**  
**App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



Please note: if you have been using the Give+ app for your donations, you will need to download the new Vanco Mobile app after Sept. 30th to make any future donations in this manner.

**OCTOBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED**

**FOOD PANTRY:** Canned Veggies

**BACKPACKS:** Oatmeal

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA OCTOBER MISSION  
PROJECT:  
CatPack and PupPack program**

## Pastors' Tuesday Evening Study @ 7 p.m.

Join us on Tuesday evenings @ 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a study using Max Lucado's book: *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. *Anxious for Nothing* invites readers to delve into Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything..." If you would like the church to order you a book, please contact the church office or you may purchase it yourself or download it to your favorite e-reader.

Study <sup>the</sup> Bible  
with us



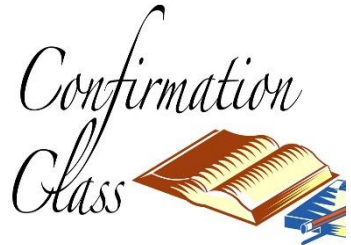
## JAM on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (hot dogs/chips/fruit/dessert) at 5:30 p.m. followed by storytelling, music, crafts, games, and lots of fun until 7 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angie, Pastor Chris, or Pastor Sheryl at the church.



## Confirmation Classes

Classes will convene each Wednesday evening from 6—7 p.m. Please refer to the letter you received last month from Pastor Chris for details. Parents are asked to be involved in the confirmation program. Dinner will be provided. For any questions or concerns, please see Pastor Chris.



## God's Work, Our Hands Sunday October 10, 2021 Lutheran World Relief School Kits

For 'God's Work, Our Hands' Sunday, we will again be assembling school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We are asking you to collect school supplies which we will assemble on Sunday, October 10. The list is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office and in the August newsletter. Reminder: Nothing can have religious messaging, patriotic symbols, or camouflage. Collection boxes will be outside the office door. Start collecting now and take advantage of all the 'Back to School' sales!!!



## First Communion Class in October



Parents: if you have a child who is not yet receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion and is interested in doing so, we are planning a First Communion class October 10<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At Calvary, there is no specific age at which a child may begin receiving Communion; it is at the parent's discretion. However, if we understand

that in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we receive the gift of Christ's forgiveness and promise of his presence and love, then it is never too early to begin receiving communion. If interested, or if you have questions, please talk with either Pastor Chris or Sheryl.



What is Laundry Love? Laundry Love is a ministry that offers free use of washers, dryers, detergent, and dryer sheets to individuals and families who are hard-pressed to cover the cost of basic necessities by partnering with a local laundromat and churches. We would be partnering with St. Francis Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church to provide a monthly Laundry Love Event in our community (our commitment would be 2 to 3 hours every third month). The Social Ministry Committee has provided us with \$200 seed money to get us started but first we need people willing to get this ministry off the ground. If interested or if you have questions, please talk to one of the pastors.



Thank you for making our first ever Celebrate Generosity event a success!!  
Plan now to join us Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. for our second event. Prizes may be awarded!! This event is for everyone young to old and in between.





## Mark Your Calendars: 2021 CROP Walk

The 2021 CROP Walk will be on Sunday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2 p.m. starting at the parking lot on the Pathway at the back of the zoo.

Jack Martin will be available Sundays after worship to collect any donations, to sign you up as a walker, or help you become a sponsor.

If the weather is wet and miserable that day, the walk will be canceled, and walkers will be asked to walk another day or to go out to the mall and do a few laps inside.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer**

### **This Sunday – September 26**

**PMA:** Bill Huelle & Nancy Steele  
**USHERS:** Tracy Steele & Vicki Howell  
**LAY READER:** Kathy Randall  
**COMMUNION ASST:** Dennis Gorr  
**POWERPOINT:** Shawna Payne  
**ACOLYTE:** Katie Hess  
**MEDIA:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,  
Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey  
**PIANIST:** Dee Brady

### **Next Sunday – October 3**

**USHERS:** Deb Brown & Jack Martin  
**LAY READER:** LaDonna Schmidt  
**COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen  
**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn  
**ACOLYTE:** Max Judy  
**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler  
**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Sunday, September 26**

10 a.m. – Worship

### **Monday, September 27**

5 p.m. – Parish Ed

### **Tuesday, September 28**

8:30 a.m. – Men's Study @ Calvary  
12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary  
1 p.m. – Quilting  
7 p.m. – Pastor's Bible Study

### **Wednesday, September 29**

5:30 p.m. – JAM  
6 p.m. – Confirmation  
7 p.m. – Choir Practice

### **Friday, October 1**

5 p.m. – Blomenkamp/Richards  
Rehearsal

### **Saturday, October 2**

3 p.m. – Blomenkamp/Richards Wedding  
5:30 p.m. – Worship

### **Sunday, October 3**

10 a.m. – Worship

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Confess your sins and pray for one another.*

#### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:38-50</b>	<b>Avoiding sin</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Numbers 11:4-29</b>	<b>Moses and the seventy elders</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>James 5:13-20</b>	<b>The power of prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 4</b>	<b>An evening prayer</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 5:12-28</b>	<b>Final Instructions</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Romans 8:18-27</b>	<b>Future glory for God's people</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 19:7-14</b>	<b>The wonders of God</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 10:2-16</b>	<b>Jesus blesses the children</b>

#### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NRSV)*

#### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of heaven and earth, guide us in our words and actions that we may sing your praises and love all those in our care. In Christ we pray, amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, as you fill us with this meal, fill our hearts with a desire for your message of divine love and faithfulness. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the truth and beauty of God's word revive your soul and make you wise. (Psalm 139:7-11)



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SEPTEMBER 26, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Send Me, Lord*



*Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.*

#### **WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What have you heard lately that filled you with joy?
- What have you heard recently that made you sad?
- In what ways can you communicate a message of healing, joy, and peace this week?

#### **DEVOTIONS**

*Read: James 5:13-20.*

James is concerned about speech. Speech that is not of God leads to division, chaos, hatred, and death. Speech that is of God brings peace, purity, and gentleness (James 3:16-18). It has been argued that talk and dialogue on social media has not helped humanity. There are times it has caused division, chaos, and hate rather than peace, purity, and gentleness. In James 5, prayer, confession, and songs of praise are listed as worthy ways to speak. James is concerned about the misuse of the human tongue and of human speech. James is also concerned that Christians live up to their calling and communicate God's healing, forgiveness, and peace to others. Let's join James in the Christian movement that seeks the good, the true, and the beautiful for all through faith in Christ. How can you use speech, written or oral, for the good of all and to give praise to God?  
*Pray: God of healing and peace, use our words so that truth, hope, and healing may reign through Christ Jesus. Amen.*

#### **SERVICE**

Access to social media can make everyone feel important. Seeing our own words can make us feel powerful and influential. The Letter of James knows that words are powerful but not always helpful. How can you use a social media platform or other means to offer words of prayer, praise, a song, or a Bible verse to bless others this week?

#### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

In Mark 9:38-40, Jesus' disciples complain that someone was casting out demons in Jesus' name but was not following Jesus' disciples. Sadly, it has been the case throughout our history that people who follow Jesus in a way different "from us" are condemned. This week, take time to list Christian traditions that are different from yours. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for their faith and witness in the world in the name of Jesus Christ.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)