



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
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calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
September 5, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer Before Worship: O God our strength, make us quick to listen and slow to speak, that the word implanted in us may take root to nourish all our living. Strengthen and inspire us to do the word we hear and live the faith we confess through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

* Indicates please stand if able. 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/Assurance of Forgiveness**

(All may make the sign of the cross ✠ the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)

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.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Most merciful God,

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.

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.**

***Glory to God:**

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Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

***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**

O God,

through human labors you continually perfect the immense work of your creation. Listen to the prayers of your people, and grant to everyone employment that calls us to our best; and unite us with each other so that we can serve our brothers and sisters, and your world, through our work. This we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives in unity with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

First Reading: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

²The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

²³for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 125

¹Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.

²**The mountains surround Jerusalem;
so you surround your people, O LORD, from this time forth forevermore.**

³The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just,
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

⁴**Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good
and to those who are true of heart.**

⁵As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the LORD will lead them away with
the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel.

Epistle Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17

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:**

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

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

Response after the announcement of the gospel:

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴From there he 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 Syrophenician 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."

Response after the gospel reading:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Kids Sermon

Angie Hinze

Sermon:

Pastor Sheryl

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Hymn of the Day:**

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ELW #650

**1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**2. In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**

**3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.**

**4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

***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:**

Each petition ends with:

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

The prayers conclude with:

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

***Words of Institution**

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.**

Invitation to Communion

Come. For the gifts of God are ready for the people of God.

Distribution of Communion:

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.

WHITE GRAPE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.

Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)

Distribution Music

Rhonda Boettcher

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your
own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡

***Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ‡ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn:

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

ELW #820

vv. 1-2

**1. O Savior, precious Savior,
whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor,
all other names above:
we worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our holy Lord and King.**

**2. O bringer of salvation,
who wondrously hast wrought,
thyself the revelation
of love beyond our thought:
we worship thee; we bless thee;
to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee,
our gracious Lord and King.**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace and joy to bear Christ's Word to the world.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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✝️ In Our Thoughts and Prayers ✝️

Prayers for healing: **Marj Nikont** (Hospitalized), **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 comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Bill Steele**.

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



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.)



Olivia Michael, 9/5; Kent Holub, 9/7;
Sydney Hinze, 9/11; Jackie Gregory, 9/11

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 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.

SEPTEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: Soups

BACKPACKS: Small Cereals

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT: CatPack and PupPack program

Pastors' Tuesday Evening Study begins Sept. 7th @ 7 p.m.

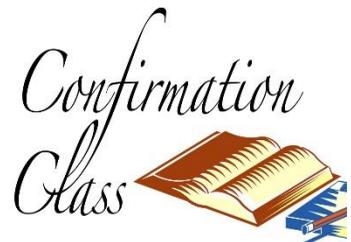
Join us on Tuesday evenings @ 7 p.m. for a study using Max Lucado's book: *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. *Anxious for Nothing* invites readers to delve into Philippians 4:6-7 "*Do not be anxious about anything...*" Join us in the fellowship hall or on Zoom by giving Christy your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

Study ^{the} Bible
with us



Confirmation Classes

Classes will convene each Wednesday evening from **5:30—6:30 p.m. beginning September 8th**. 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.





Our first JAM meeting will be Wednesday, September 8!
Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade. We begin with dinner (hot ham/cheese sandwiches/chips/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.

Our first EPIC meeting will be Sunday, September 12!

Our middle school/high school youth group is for kids in 7th-12th grade. We will begin our year with an outdoor picnic/lake party at Wally and Kathy Randall's home. We will meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and drive out to the Randall home. We will have hot dogs/chips and dessert and then have some fun swimming in their private lake. Bring a friend and don't miss out on this fun time! Bring your swimsuit, your towel and plan for a fun time!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There is a possible Habitat for Humanity Work Day on Saturday morning, September 11th depending on how much work gets completed before then.

If interested, watch for an email the week before.

Celebrate Generosity Event & Ice Cream



Social
September 12



Join us September 12 for our first ever Celebrate Generosity Event starting at 9 a.m., worship service at 10 a.m. and then following worship we will be having an ice cream social hosted by the Council.



3rd, 6th & 7th Grade BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

SUNDAY, September 12th

Come celebrate with us as our third, sixth and seventh graders receive their Bibles during worship.

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 in October (exact date still to be decided). 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.



Looking for a Laundry Love Coordinator. 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 to find someone who would be willing to commit to being the coordinator of this event. If interested or if you have questions, please talk to Pastor Sheryl.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – September 5

USHERS: Deb Brown & Jack Martin

LAY READER: Marti Wegelin

COMMUNION ASST: Shari Copsey

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

ACOLYTE: Andrew Miller

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,
Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

Next Sunday – September 12

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Angie Hinze

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

ACOLYTE: Merrick Walsh

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Andi Dorn, Shelly Koehler

PIANIST: Dee Brady

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 5

10 a.m. – Worship

Monday, September 6

Labor Day

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7

9 a.m. – Esther Circle @ Ruth Harris'

12 p.m. – Women's Study @ Calvary

1 p.m. – Quilting

Wednesday, September 8

5:30 p.m. – JAM Kickoff

6 p.m. – Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir Practice

Saturday, September 11

5:30 p.m. – Worship

Sunday, September 12

Bible Presentations

9 a.m. – Celebrate Generosity Event

10 a.m. – Worship

Following Worship – Ice Cream Social

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God's love breaks down boundaries.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

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

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-9	Service that pleases God
Thursday	Leviticus 19:33-37	Living a holy life
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	One in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[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," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING:

A Prayer for the Week:
Almighty God, we thank you that your mercy triumphs over judgment and your love leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
For the food that we eat and the food that we share, give us, O Lord, thankful hearts that show care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the Lord God bless you with an open heart to receive and to give love through Christ Jesus our Savior.



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For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Jesus, Jesu, Fill Us with
Your Love



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

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What does it feel like to be left out of a group or not selected for a team?
- How do you react when you see someone being excluded from a group?
- Jesus showed love even to strangers. How would you describe the way you treat strangers?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 7:24-37.

Jesus shows uncharacteristic rejection of someone in need. The Syrophenician woman asks for help, but she is not Jewish. She is a foreigner, and Jesus suggests he came for the children of Israel, not those outside of Judea and Galilee. However, perhaps he is speaking the voice of the early church that is likewise wondering what are the proper boundaries for the mission field of the church. The answer: Gentiles—therefore, all people—are part of God's arena of care and redemption through Christ. It is time for all ears, tongues, and hearts to be opened. God's power of love and forgiveness is so awesome that it knows no boundaries. Thanks be to God! God's compassion is present for all of us, stranger and friend alike. When have you reached out to a stranger with the love of God?
Pray: Loving God, just as you reach out to us with your grace and forgiveness, give us hearts to reach out to others that all may know your care through Christ Jesus. Amen.

SERVICE

James 2 warns against worshipping communities showing partiality. Many congregations look very homogeneous. They attract people who look, act, and think like one another. Some of this is due to local contexts, but some of it is due to a lack of warmth and initiative taken toward new people. Who is someone who could use your warmth and care to help them feel welcome in your congregation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Welcoming others with the peace of Christ has been part of the Christian tradition for two thousand years. Look up the sign language for peace. Teach it to others. As a way to practice reaching out to others with hope and love, you can greet others in your home, neighborhood, school, and work with these words: "The peace of the Lord be with you."



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