



# **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 3, 2023**

## Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

**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.

Guest minister today is Dr. Charles Richardson of Scottsbluff who is filling in for PMA Huelle who is in Kimball this Sunday.

**Visitors**, if you are worshipping with us today,  
we are glad to have you with us.

*(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.

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

#### ‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡

Opening Hymn:

**"For the Beauty of the Earth"**

**ELW #879  
vv. 1,4&5**

**1. For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:**

*Refrain: **Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.***

**4. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain***

**5. For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain**

**\*Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

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

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise:**

**"Awesome God"**

**W&P #13**

**Our God is an awesome God,  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, pow'r, and love  
Our God is an awesome God!**

*Repeat*

**Our God is an awesome God!  
Our God is an awesome God!**

### **\*Greeting**

The grace of our risen 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,

**we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

#### **First reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;

under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

### **Psalm 26:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

### **Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

**\*Gospel Verse**

**Page 142**

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

**\*Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**✚WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD✚**

Hymn of the Day:

**"Will You Come and Follow Me"**

**ELW #798**

**vv.1,2&5**

1. "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?"

2. "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

**\*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:*

Merciful God,,... **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

.... trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

**\*Offering Prayer**

God of power, God of plenty,

**all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.**

**Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**



## **\*Thanksgiving for the Word**

ELW pg 220

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**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**

The God of glory, ‡ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Chorus: Bind us together Lord,  
Bind us together with cords  
That cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together in love.**

**1. There is only one God.  
There is only one King.  
There is only one body;  
That is why we can sing: Chorus**

**2. You are the fam'ly of God.  
You are the promise divine.  
You are God's chosen desire,  
You are the glorious new wine. Chorus**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Copyright Permissions: Liturgy:** From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103411. Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Music: For the Beauty of the Earth:** Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt. ©Public Domain; **Will You Come and Follow Me:** Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net A-705226; **Bind Us Together:** CCLI Song # 1228 Bob Gillman © 1977 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect®. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1825044

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers+

Prayers for healing: **Joy Arnold** (Cancer), **Brenda & kids, Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Aimee Roos** (colon cancer & critical kidney disease—Penny Stevens' nephew's wife), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **Marsha Bueide** (recovering), **William Gibbs** (Cancer—brother of Larry Gibbs), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Linda Spomer** (healing/pain from broken back), **Neal Blomenkamp** (recovering), **Catherine Rahrs** (Val Rahrs' mother), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Cindy Cole** (Carolyn Jensen's sister).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).



Kierra Miller, 9/4; Hunter Miller, 9/4; Kent Holub, 9/7

*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.



### SEPTEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Soups

**BACKPACKS:** Small cereal

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.





## CLCW SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT: D.O.V.E.S.

Domestic violence is a constant concern in our local communities. Scottsbluff/Gering provides access to a 24 hour crisis hotline and a shelter, where those trying to escape abuse may find refuge. The shelter is always grateful for cash donations to help people set up new households. Some needed supplies: Non-perishable foods, brooms, mops, buckets, paper towels, and sponges. Other items needed: dishes, pots/pans, silverware, small knives, can openers, potato peelers, stirring spoons, etc., toys, books, puzzles for the kids, sanitary products, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair brush, combs, shaving cream, nail clippers, nail files, and bodywash. **No clothing, please.** Donations may be placed in the tan "Designated Giving" envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark on them CLCW Project on the envelope. Thank you for your support.

### **Sing Praise to the Lord!**

Calvary's **Choir practice** will be starting on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the **Choir Loft**. If you love to **sing God's Praise**, you are welcome to join us. Hope to see you there!  
Questions? Call Becky Martin at 436-3993.



### **OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)**

OWLS has been rescheduled to **September 13<sup>th</sup>**.  
Come enjoy a BBQ. Then stay for fellowship & some fun games in the Fellowship Hall!  
Come join us for a fun afternoon!



### **Our JAM kickoff will be Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>!**

Our Wednesday evening youth group is for kids in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We begin with dinner 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 at the church.





## Our first EPIC meeting will be Sunday, September 10!

Our middle school/high school youth group is for kids in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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!



## 3rd & 6th Grade BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

**SUNDAY, September 10th**

Celebrate with us as our third and sixth graders receive their Bibles during worship.

## Confirmation Classes

Parent meeting will be September 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m. Classes will convene each Wednesday evening from **6-7 p.m.** **beginning September 13th.** Please refer to the letter you received in August from PMA Bill Huelle for details. Parents are asked to be involved in the confirmation program. Dinner will be provided. For any questions or concerns, please see PMA Bill Huelle.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**This Sunday – September 3**

**Dr. Charles Richardson**

**USHERS:** Jack & Becky Martin

**LAY READER:** Marti Wegelin

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Merrick Walsh & Rhyan Buckley

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Barb Jensen, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Nannie Walsh

**ORGANIST:** Rhonda Boettcher

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** *Please sign up!*

**Next Sunday – September 10**

**USHERS:** Kent & Dawn Holub

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Vicki Howell

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Deb Brown & Marlene Downer

**POWERPOINT:** Matt Payne

**ACOLYTES:** Jack & Max Judy

**MEDIA:** Jeff Van Patten

**AUDIO:** Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

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

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP:** *Please sign up!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, September 3**

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

**Monday, September 4**

*Labor Day* – Office Closed

7 p.m. – Hannah Circle @ Becky Martin's home

**Tuesday, September 5**

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, September 6**

12 p.m. – OWLS Luncheon

5:30 p.m. – JAM Kickoff

6 p.m. – Parents Meeting for Confirmation

7 p.m. – Choir Begins

**Saturday, September 9**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, September 10**

***Bible Presentations***

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

11:30 a.m. – EPIC @ Randall's

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Following Jesus is not an easy path.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow
Monday	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Jeremiah is reassured
Tuesday	Romans 12:9-21	Rules for Christian living
Wednesday	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Paul's instructions to Timothy
Thursday	Philippians 1:27-30	Live your life in a worthy manner
Friday	1 Corinthians 12:12-26	One body with many members
Saturday	Psalms 26:1-8	Prayer of an innocent person
Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*  
Matthew 16:24 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, help us to pick up our crosses, suffer, and follow Jesus for what is right, just, and loving. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the cross of Christ free you to care for all.



MILESTONES  
M I L E S T O N E S

© 2022 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
Just a Closer Walk with  
Thee



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:

- When is a time you experienced pain or suffering?
- How does your faith in Christ help you when you are in pain or suffering?



**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

**DEVOTIONS**



**Read:** Matthew 16:21-28.

In general, we do our best to avoid pain and suffering. Peter wanted Jesus—and himself—to avoid suffering, and so he rebuked Jesus. However, some suffering is necessary in life. There are times when the path in life is not easy. Fighting for justice on behalf of others and God's creation and defending God's mercy and forgiveness when hatred and vengeance is pursued by others are examples of times when suffering is warranted. Peter failed to understand this. Jesus called him out as one who was following the path of evil. The path Jesus chose picks up a cross. Jesus picked up his cross for the salvation of all that God has created. It was a very costly cross for Jesus. It led to torment, false accusations, suffering and death. It is what is referred to as the "theology of the cross," that is, out of suffering God brings healing, new life, and salvation.

**Discuss:** When is a time in your life you avoided the harder path? What happened?

**Pray:** Compassionate God, give us courage and strength to follow you where truth and justice are needed, to paths that bring healing and hope through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**SERVICE**



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve by risking your own comfort for the sake of others?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



The cross is a Christian symbol. It reminds us that Jesus is with us through hard times. We see crosses in many places in our lives. As a follower of Jesus, notice the number of crosses you see in your home and in the community this week. Each time you see one, take a moment to pray: Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross to save us. Amen.



MILESTONES  
M I L E S T O N E S

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)