



September 6, 2026 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

In our readings this week, we deal with one of the most uncomfortable realities of following Jesus: We have to deal with sin. This theme is found throughout our readings this morning. In the Old Testament reading, Ezekiel is commanded to warn the wicked that they will die. In our Gospel reading, Jesus warns against causing children to sin; He emphasizes the severity of sin and the extreme response we should have against it; He speaks of God's deep love towards those who stray; and He gives instructions on how to deal with a brother who has sinned. Let's be honest, nobody *wants* to deal with sin – but following Jesus *requires* that we deal with sin, and deal with it faithfully. Thanks be to God that through Jesus Christ, we are not lost in our sin. Instead, through Jesus, we have the forgiveness of our sin. This prompts our Psalmist to say, "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Ps. 32:1).

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 915, "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us take a moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *"This is the Feast" (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 155)*

All: *Refrain:* This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation; Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Final Refrain*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7–9*

⁷ "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 32:1–7*

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Pastor: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

People: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

People: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

Pastor: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

People: you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

EPISTLE READING *Romans 13:1–10*

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 18:1–20*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went

astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 511, "Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment"*

SERMON *"Dealing with Sin"*

NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answer us, O Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 159-160)*

All: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: **I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (Augsburg Confession-Article X)**

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 161)*

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You ... one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood,

which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 163)*

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRUBUTION HYMNS

LSB 522, “Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise”

LSB 725, “Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 605, “Father Welcomes”

THANK THE LORD *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 164)*

All: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 707, “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.
People: Thanks be to God!

Next Week’s Readings: September 13, 2026 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:1-12

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Service adapted from Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151-166).



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of September 6, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: James Sharp & Dane Arbuckle Families
Grace, Aurora - served by Rev. Daniel Heitshusen

Prayers of Peace and Comfort: Family of Francis Krueger

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Stan Crandal (recovery from surgery)

Rachel Sanford (upcoming surgery)

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Mike & Edith (friends of Sue Doss)

Tammy Ardrey – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)

Rick Bauer – (Gladys' son – health and healing)

Becky – (Cheryl Lile's friend – fighting an infection)

Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)

Blazi – (friend of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing)

Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – (health and healing)

Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)

Charlene Dart (Linda Myers' sister-in-law – cancer)

Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son of Teri)

McGee family – (health and healing)

The family of Nancy Keegan (hope and comfort)

Glenda – (Teri Ediger's step-mother – health and healing)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)

Family of Jamie – (friend of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing)

Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)

Jim Key (health and healing)

Beverly Lofton – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)

Family of Pat (the wife of Bill Michel's brother)

Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)

Rebecca – (Kathy Holle's relative – health and healing from cancer)

Emma S. – (recovery after hospital stay)

William (Ardella's son)

Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)

Baby Vada – (Cathy Munden's great grandchild – health and healing)

Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

John White (health and healing)

Kandi Wood – (friend of Cathy Munden – hospital)

Long Term

Ardella – (health and healing)

Gladys Bauer – (health and healing)

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)

Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)

Rev. Johannes Brann – (health and healing/peace and comfort)

Rev. Brian and Jessica Chisamore – (health and healing for Jessica)

Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)

Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)

LD Cantrell – (brother-in-law of Charlie & Edee Chambers – hospice)

Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)

Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)

Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)

Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)

Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)

Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)

Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-In-Law – health & healing)

Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)

Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)

LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)

Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)

Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)

Bill Thompson – (health and healing)

WEEK

Sunday	Sept. 6th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am – Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	Sept. 7th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	Sept. 9th	Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Friday	Sept. 11th	Pastor's Day Off
Sunday	Sept. 13th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	Sept. 14th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm

Birthdays: Sept.6-Emily Ernest & Ada Granderson; Sept.7-Faith Wright; Sept.8-Darlene Lampe & Byron Martin; Sept.10-Michael Garoutte

Anniversaries: Sept.9-Paul & Barbara Martin

August

06-Matthew Springer & Emily Ernest

13-Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer

20-Bill & Joanne Michel

27-Charlie & Edee Chambers

September

06-Bill Michel

13-Harold Lampe

20-Charlie Chambers

27-David Lampe

Sunday Bible Class - Why do we begin the service with confession? Why does Pastor say "in the stead and by the command of Christ..."? Why do we have four Scripture readings every Sunday? Are they connected to each other? Is there any Biblical basis for why we do the things we do on Sunday morning? We will seek to answer these questions (and more) in our Sunday morning Bible class. If you've ever wondered why we worship the way we do, then come and join us!

Pastor will be gone on Sunday, September 20, for his niece's baptism in Lee's Summit, MO. He plans to leave the day before on Saturday, September 19. Pastor Ken Lampe has agreed to fill in for Bible class and worship on September 20 (thank you, Pastor Lampe). If something comes up that requires immediate pastoral care, please contact Pastor Lampe. Otherwise, feel free to contact Pastor Heitshusen and he will get back with you as soon as he is back in town.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class will resume THIS Wednesday, September 9, at 6:00 pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall in the basement. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus commands that His disciples "Go and make disciples... baptizing... and teaching..." We have been made into His disciples through baptism. Now, what does it look like to live as a disciple of Jesus? What does He teach His disciples in His first sermon in Matthew's Gospel?

Join us for our next LWML meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, at 1:30 pm in Trinity Chapel. Note the date change because of Labor Day. Our program will be given by Courtney Sletten — information about the music camp this past summer. Please join us. There will be a business meeting following the program.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistatt, MO, invites you to attend a musical concert on September 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. The concert theme is "Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God" and will include vocal and instrumental music, solos, duets, and choirs. In addition, there will be 4 congregation hymns emphasizing our God, our journey, our foundation, and our nation. Come and enjoy the music of "Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God". Please join us.

After the concert at 5:00 p.m. there will a historical presentation about **Trinity's first teacher, Henry Nehrling**. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall at the school. There will be a light supper of sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres in the Fellowship Hall. Additional information in the narthex.

The Story of Hubert H.A. Kleiboeker's WWII Experiences at Freistatt on September 21 at 6:30 p.m. Additional information in the narthex.