

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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ironriverlutherans.org

Find us on Facebook



September 13, 2020

Welcome to worship at Our Savior's Lutheran!

We are blessed to have you join us. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become a part of the Our Savior's community.

TODAY'S FOCUS

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

WELCOME

GODS WORKS. OUR HANDS.

SEASON OF CREATION (Written by National Bishop Susan Johnson ELCIC)

Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? Matthew 18:21

At the 2018 Bishops' Academy, theologian Cynthia Moe-Lobeda reminded us of our call to "neighbor love," to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. She went on to say that if God loves the creation, then we must think of the creation as our neighbor. I am reminded of this when I read today's lesson. What if Peter had rephrased his question to Jesus as "Lord, if a neighbor sins against me, how often should I forgive?" Or, what if the neighbor asking the question was creation asking about us?

How many times should creation forgive us for overfishing, deforesting, polluting, endangering species, desertification, commodifying or even just not paying attention? Whether it is seventy-seven times, or seventy times seven, we are past the breaking point.

The 1854 speech attributed to Chief Seattle included these words: "Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves. ... The earth is precious to [God], and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator." How long until we don't just know it in our heads, but know it in our hearts, and change the way we treat the creation, our neighbor?

Creator, we pray that you would help us touch the earth gently. Turn us from our ways of commodifying the earth and consuming its riches without thought. Amen

Gathering Song

Touch the Earth Lightly

ELW 739

- 1 Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
- 2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster—
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

- 3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.
- 4 God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

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GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P:** Let us pray.
- C:** **Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

First Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the LORD and in the LORD's servant Moses.

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

L: Word of God, word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114

¹Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

²Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel God's dominion.

³The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.

⁴The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.

⁵What ailed you, O sea, that you fled, O Jordan, that you turned back,

⁶you mountains, that you kipped like rams, you little hills like young sheep?

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do

you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: Word of God, word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(See end of bulletin)

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING Thank You for your continued support!

OFFERTORY SONG **As the Grains of Wheat** **ELW 465**

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*
- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Prayer after Communion

P: We give you thanks, gracious God,

C: **that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

TIME OF SHARING

BLESSING

P: Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you
lead me, I can-not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right-eous-ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am
help me o-ver my weak-est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa-tan and sin op-press. I am put-ting
blind with-out thy Light to see, Lord, just al-ways
D.C.
dark-ness thy face to see. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser-vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris M. Akers, © 1972
Tune: Doris M. Akers, © 1972, lyrics by Richard Sandbrook
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DISMISSAL: P: Go in peace. Remember the poor. C: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(A brief silence.)*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those dealing with illness in heart, body and mind. We pray for those that grieve losses in life. We pray for those on our prayer lists and for those we name before you now in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

"CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE"

Pastor:	Pastor Carol Braun	osl@cheqnet.net
Secretary:	Evelyn Pamer	oslsec@cheqnet.net
Musicians	Linda Hultman/Patty Lehman/Kathy Rewalt	
Lector	John Schrock	
Recording Technician	Dick Rewalt	



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STAFF

Pastor Carol Braun
Linda Hultman, Keyboard
Patty Lehman, Keyboard
Evelyn Pamer, Secretary

September '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
13 God's Work, Our Hands Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	14 10:00 WELCA Bible Study 7:00 Al-Anon	15 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	16 9:30 Bible Study	17	18	19 Food Shelf Day
20 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	21 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Al-Anon	22 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	23 9:30 Bible Study	Pastor Carol's Days Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays Secretary's Hours Mon, Wed, Thur. & Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.		

Next Week's Readings: Exo 16:2-15, Ps 105:1-6, Phil 1:21-30, Matt 20:1-16

We will continue to stay in touch electronically by Email, Facebook and our website
(ironriverlutherans.org) We are posting worship services on YouTube and are
sending out regular mail for those who do not have electronic connections.
Let us continue to keep in touch with one another by phone, text, and emails and continue to lift in
prayer all who are being affected by this virus.



The family and friends of Donna Callahan. Lynette Smith, Lorin Wicklund, Rodney Lahti, Jane Jensen, Ken & Linda Watters, Jim DeRosia, Nancy Anderson, Gregg Levine, Darren Forsythe, Todd VanTil, Mark Hokkanen. *Remember those in nursing homes and assisted living who cannot have family, friends or volunteers visit them during this sad time.*

**Next parking Lot Church date-
October 4th
10:00am
Iron River Community Center**

**The Words in Season October-
November- December Devotionals are
available at the church for pick-up. They
are by the front door to drive up and
easily pick one up.**

**Iron River Elementary Students Are Asking For
Your Help For Their Shoe Fundraiser.** They are collecting GENTLY WORN, NEW and USED SHOES of any size and kind. They get .40¢ a pound. Drop boxes are in the school lobby and Our Savior's Lutheran.

Connections with Creation Sept 13
Through the oxygen cycle, the earth provides the oxygen we need to be alive on this planet. However, unless our bodies breathe in the air, the earth's abundant oxygen will be of no use to us. The water cycle ensures that the earth creates plentiful sources of water, but if we do not collect and drink that water, we will become dehydrated. Similarly, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has made God's free gift of forgiveness available to the world. Jesus suggests in this gospel reading from Matthew that the act of forgiving helps us both to tap into God's abundant stores of mercy and to extend that mercy to others. Knowing that God's forgiveness is available for us should, Jesus teaches, empower us to be generous in the ways we show forgiveness to our neighbors who do us harm.

Honoring "God's Work. Our Hands." on Sunday, September 13

Leaders here at Our Savior's have chosen not to make this a one-day event but to be "God's Work. Our Hands." to our community all year. If you or someone you know needs assistance with yard work or light repairs at their homes, please contact Evelyn in the church office and she will pass your requests on to those leaders who will organize the help needed to get the work done.

WELCA Bible Study On Monday, Sept 14 at 10:00 am we are having our next bible study. We will be using the Gather Magazine and beginning a new three-part series.



This study focuses on the theme of "holy time." Holy time is, first and foremost, God's time. It is the mystery and promise that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." This month, we begin by looking at holy memory, or how the Bible encourages God's people to remember God's story and our own. Plan to join us on the 14th. We will have copies available. Along with your bible, be sure to bring your own coffee/beverage.

School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief A huge thank you to all who donated items or money for our school supply kits for LWR. We hope to fill 100 bags to be sent overseas. We appreciate your support. COVID can't stop your generosity. Thank you. WELCA.