

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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ironriverlutherans.org

Find us on Facebook



September 20, 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

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GATHERING

WELCOME

SEASON OF CREATION (Written by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, The Episcopal Church)

My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Philippians 1: 23b-24

There are a lot of good hymns and spirituals about heaven and how wonderful it will be to rest from our labors and be there with the Lord. And this is true. The apostle Paul, when he wrote his letter to the Philippian Christians, was in prison and didn't know if he was about to die. If so, he said, that would be fine: "To die is gain." But he went on to say that, although this world and its problems can be tiresome, he needed to stick around because there was still work to do. To remain, for Paul and for us, was "necessary for you."

Now, "you" isn't just our loved ones, or even our neighbors, co-workers and folks we meet. "You" is also the world in which we live and breathe, the vineyard in which we toil. To "remain in the flesh" is hard work, because it calls us to be ever more intentional in our care for all around us, including creation itself. German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once affirmed that "it is only living completely in this world that one learns to have faith." This world, and all that it holds is in God's hands. But as long as we remain in the flesh, then by God's call it is in our hands as well.

Liberating, life-giving God, help us to know that we and the world you have created are truly the work of your hands. Give us knowledge and wisdom to care for your handiwork now and for future generations. Amen

Gathering Song He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the wind and the rain in His hands
He's got the sun and the moon in His hands
He's got the wind and the rain in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the tiny little baby baby in His hands
He's got the tiny little baby in His hands
He's got the tiny little baby in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got a-you and me brother in His hands
He's got a-you and me sister in His hands
He's got a-you and me brother in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

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: **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you

did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

L: Word of God, word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

²Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: Word of God, word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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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
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. Allen, b. 1927
Tune: Doris M. Allen, b. 1922; lyrics by Robert Lindwood
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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.)*

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne. 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	Dick Rewalt	
Recording Technician	Dick Rewalt	

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September '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
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	24 Produce Day	25	26
27 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	28 7:00 Al-Anon	29 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	30 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: Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32, Ps 25:1-9, Phil 2:1-13, Matt 21:23-46

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. Family and friends of Gail Stouffer. 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-
 Sunday, 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.**

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.



**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 20

Our bodies rely on nutrients from food to get the energy we need to grow, work, and thrive. Food does not just appear in the grocery store; it is cultivated and harvested by agricultural workers who put their hands into the soil and pick the fruit off the plants. The people who grow and gather our food are also the most likely to be food insecure. This means that they and their families often do not have enough food to meet their own basic nutritional needs even as they labor to provide food for others. This dynamic of injustice related to the way that societies build and maintain their food systems has been going on for thousands of years. In the parable Jesus tells about the generous vineyard owner we learn that Jesus was aware of this injustice and that living within the logic of the reign of God means that we are called to engage in acts that right our relationships with people who labor on the land.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
U.S. WILDFIRES

SEPTEMBER 2020

ELCA.org/disaster

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, wildfires have erupted across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. At least 20 people have died, hundreds of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and more than 3.5 million acres have burned across the three states. Some evacuees face the difficult decision of whether to stay in a shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods

to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.

Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "U.S. wildfires" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. wildfires* \$ _____ DDG0077
- Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where needed most* \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
Write "U.S. wildfires" or "Where needed most" on your check's memo line.

