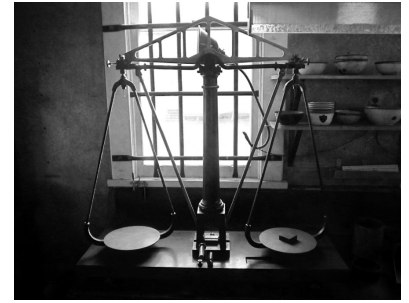


Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Gathering Song *"From the Rising of the Sun"*

Greeting

Song *"Teach Us Your Ways"*

Prayer of the Day

Special Music *"Love Grows Here"* Chancel Choir

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Children's Message

Genesis 50:15-21...Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 103:1-13... Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶ The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 18:21-35... Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus 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.²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him,²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made.²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.²⁸ But 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.'²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Hymn of the Day

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

ELW 605

Prayers

Presentation of Confirmation Bibles

Sharing God's Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Stewardship

Offertory

"Give Thanks"

Words of Institution

"Remember Me"

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Communion Song

"All Belong Here"

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song

"Because of Your Love"

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is Thursday, September 17th from 5 to 7 pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Every item donated is very much appreciated. This week our specific focus will be ramen noodles, mac & cheese, pasta, and canned beans.
- ⇒ **Altar Flowers** are available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ **Bingo Prize Box** We are getting closer to our annual Neighborhood Block Party! And bingo is always a big deal! Please drop bingo prize donations off in the box in the Narthex
- ⇒ **Block Party** Our annual block party will take place NEXT Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Join us on the front lawn for a bounce house, blow up obstacle course, the Sweet-Shop Shuffle, Bingo, DJ Moon, pony rides, face painting, and FREE FOOD! This event is free to the public and all are invited. Want to help? Sign up now in the narthex or by [clicking here](#). Want to donate cake or dessert? [Click here](#).
- ⇒ **Lunch Bunch** Our September Lunch Bunch will be held on September 17th at The Olive Garden located at 7505 Dodge St. at 11:30 AM. All are welcome! Please call Linda Kohrs 402-690-3342 for a reservation.
- ⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Memorial Gifts Mtg
10:40 am Adult Forum
10:40 am Wonder Together

Monday, September 14

6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

6:30 pm Council Meeting
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

11:30 am Lunch Bunch
12:30 pm Tai Chi
6:00 pm Confirmation/Uke Choir
6:30 pm Youth Worship
7:00 pm Youth Group/Radical Ringers

Thursday, September 17

5:00 pm Food Pantry
6:30 pm Carolan Bell Choir
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, September 18

1:00 pm Knitting in the Narthex
7:15pm AA—Good Orderly Direction

Sunday, September 20

9:30 am Worship
10:40 am Adult Forum/Wonder Together
12:00 pm Block Party
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Mtg

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: Norm Firkins; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz.

Friends and Relatives: Connie James, friend of Wendy Brenner; Josh & Nicole Irvin, family of Joel Irvin; Janet Callahan & Family, friends of Heather Abbott; Emalyn, granddaughter of Pat Butterfield; Kimberly Sobota, mother of Joel Irvin; Madelyn Abbott, daughter of Heather Abbott; Meg Trowbridge, friend of Nicole Szymczak; Bobbi Valandra, sister of Jason Valandra; Arthur Oberwetter, father of Julie Leahy; Georgia Jennings, niece of Walter Roberts; Gordon Blake, father of Alisa Krueger; Kim Jones, sister-in-law of Trisha Ryan; Scott Matheson, brother in law of Julie Noteman; Joshua Perilo, son of Sharon Perilo; Savannah Barb, cousin of Emma & Geno Roberts; Sonrisa Lewis, friend of the Harvey family; Ken Gross, cousin of Julie Noteman; Josh Moreau, friend of Wendy Brenner's family; Nancy Bartell, sister-in-law of Peg Schneider; Michael Schadendorf, grandfather of Edith and Tanya Valandra; Dave Huggins, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; Mya Calendar, daughter of Trisha Ryan; Opal Calendar, foster granddaughter of Trisha Ryan; Kelsey Schneider, daughter of Jim & Peg Schneider; Theresa Ramelb, friend of Jacque Petersen; Shari Jensen, friend of Ed Krueger; Linda Anderson, Barb Kay's sister; Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers, McDonald's grandson.