**October 4, 2026 19th Sunday after Pentecost**
***Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting 4 – pp. 147-153***

**Hymns for Sunday, October 4, 2026**
Opening Hymn: *Lord Our God, with Praise We Come* – ELW #730
Hymn of the Day: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* – W&P #95
Communion Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!* – ELW #595
Sending Hymn: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High (vs.1-4)* – ELW #835

**WORD:** *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7; Psalm 80: 7-15; Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 33-46

**Taking The Word Home:**
Since St. Paul can't be here in person to show us how to live, who exhibits "gospel living" for you? Maybe you can tell that person this week. Seek to spend more time with that person.

How does the first reading reflect the way some prophets are describing life in the United States today? What behaviors does the story ask us to reflect on as faithful Christians?

Imagine there is a continuum that describes a world view: "radical individualism," 1_____5_____10 "common good/communal-ism." Plot yourself on the continuum. Which world view is most like yours? Are you satisfied with that world view? Name one thing you can do to move towards the gospel values described by Jesus in the gospel parables? Do it for one week.

How do you respond to those who call themselves Christian and spend more time pointing out the faults of people they perceive as not saved than spreading the Good News of love, mercy, and unity?

Is there anyone you have judged harshly in the recent past? Go back and take a second look but ask God to be a part of the scene this time.

What/who is the source of your personal power? Who/what threatens your power and how do you defend it?

**October is World Hunger Month**
If you choose to contribute to this it can be added to the regular offering envelope.

**Mission Statement:**

**We are a church deeply and confidently rooted in the gospel of God's grace. Through worship, education, and fellowship, we are freed to give our lives joyfully in witness and service.**

## *Poetry Corner*

Rejoicing in ordinary things is not sentimental or trite. It actually takes guts. Each time we drop our complaints and allow everyday good fortune to inspire us, we enter the warrior's world. **by Pema Chodron**

### Ordinary Risk by Dr. Victor Klimoski

When everything becomes ordinary,
Predictable as sunrise,
Though sunrise is far from ordinary.
For the sake of argument, though,
Let's say that sunrise is just that-
Plain-Jane ordinary.
[But, as an aside, this poem admits
Such an assertion is for convenience,
Not a serious statement.]
The point is that predictability
Risks loss of delight
At what the eye beholds-
Whether a blood-red iris,
A cumulonimbus anvil,
Children flying their kites,
The symmetry of a cemetery,
Wind-spun maple leaves,
Chimes outside our lakeside bedroom
As I smell coffee- already made!-
Announcing what will be a superb day,
[and with no visible proof]
A day with one or more
Hidden surprises.

## Worship News

**11 October, Sunday**

8:00AM – Worship in person
9:15AM – Intergenerational Faith Formation
10:15AM – Worship in person or online

## Worship Servants for Sunday, October 11:

| | 8:00AM | 10:30am |
|---|---|---|
| **Tech Minister** | Kevin Cartee | Joan Cram |
| **Reader** | Jenn Cartee | Roger Klosterman |
| **Usher** | Gilbertson's | Barry Pickart |

## Ministry Schedule:

**6 October, Tuesday: 1:30PM – Lectionary Study**
**7 October, Wednesday: 7:00AM – Meditation/ Morning Prayer**
**5:45PM – Worship & Music meeting**
**6:30PM- Choir rehearsal**

**The Lutheran World Relief quilts** that are on display today were made by members and friends of the congregation. Thanks to everyone who donated materials and helped sew and tie the quilts. Thanks to Steve and Sandy Heer who will take them to Cedar Rapids this month for shipment to LWR.

## Anointing and Healing Prayer in Worship

There are always people among us seeking healing in mind, body, and/or spirit. As a faith community, we want to accompany each other in experiencing that healing. Lord of Life has a strong pastoral care team including five Stephen Ministers trained to accompany people in times of personal or spiritual need. Along with Pastor Rodney, Tara Grace, Nancy Davis, Kevin Curoe, Debbie Thomas, and Kayleen Backhaus are willing to meet with those seeking companionship, a listening ear, or someone with whom to pray. This can be a one time visit or an ongoing regular visit. A simple request is all it takes (319.389-6153) to make the arrangements.

In addition, we would like to offer two communal opportunities to pray for healing in the context of our regular worship. On the first Sundays of the month, Stephen Ministers will be near the entrance of the worship space for the length of the communion rite if you want to ask them to pray with you for personal intentions.

On the third Sundays of the month, at the conclusion of the communion rite, those seeking healing for any reason (fear, upcoming medical procedure, new diagnosis, loss, major life changes, grief, etc.), will be invited to come forward to have hands laid on you, anointed and prayed over by members of our pastoral care team. During these five minutes, the congregation is invited to sing while praying for those who come forward. It is a powerful way to be united in faith without having to know all the details....

We hope you will join in this powerful ministry and energy of our loving God.

## Upcoming Events

The Senior Lunch Group will be traveling to St.Donatus for lunch and fellowship at Kalmes Restaurant, 100 N. Main Street, on Thursday, October 22nd. We will be carpooling from the church at 10:45 a.m. and hoping for a scenic drive on a lovely fall day. If you have any questions or wish to make your reservations, please contact Peggy Granovsky.

## Care in our Community

Fall Highway Cleanup will take place at 8:30 A.M. on **Saturday, October 24th**. More information and volunteer sign up can be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship area. For further details, please contact Steve Heer at 563-451-8063.

Beginning in October, Pastor Rodney and members of the Stephen Ministry pastoral care team will be leading Services with Communion at the following Care Centers: Grand Meadow, first Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am; Hawkeye Care Center, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1:30 pm; Luther Manor, 4th Wednesday of the month, 10 am. You are welcome to join them and help spread the joy of God's love.

We are grateful for a recent gift of $1000 from the Trappestine Nuns in support of our Lord of Life Little Food Pantry. Thanks be to God!

**We Remember the following members in prayer this week: Sally Fuller, Steve Geisert, Jim & Bernita Gilbertson, Jesse & Amanda Gillen and family, Tara & Kevin Grace, Phil & Peggy Granovsky, and Grayden Grimm**

## Birthdays for the first week of October

*Barb Croghan – 10/1*
*Stephanie Ackerman – 10/3*
*Jessica Cartee – 10/7*
*Vonda Herman – 10/7*
*Steve Heer – 10/8*
*Sue Asche 10/8*

**Pastor**
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**Administrative Assistant**
Kayleen Backhaus
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**Administrative Office Hours**
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30AM – 2:30PM

**Musician**
Jill Klinebriel
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**Choir Director**
Susan Hansen
dutchdowager@gmail.com

**NOW Worship Leader**
Bri Ensign
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