



Sunday, September 13, 2026

10:00 a.m.



“Forgiven to Forgive”

Pastor Erik Allen



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

John Behnke

Announcements

GATHERING

Song

Through It All

Call to Worship

P: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me;

C: we will bless God’s holy name and remember all God’s gifts.

P: God forgives our sins, redeems our lives, and crowns us with mercy;

C: we are renewed by God’s steadfast and abundant love.

P: The Lord is full of compassion, slow to anger, and rich in mercy;

C: God does not deal with us according to our sins.

P: As far as the east is from the west, God removes our transgressions;

C: come, let us worship the One whose compassion never fails.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

To Know You More

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: O 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.

C: Amen

please be seated

WORD

Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

"Forgiven to Forgive"

Pastor Erik

Hymn

God's Work, Our Hands

ACS 1000

The Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He
descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended
into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will
come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

please be seated

Offering

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code
or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



*On each 1st Sunday we collect a special offering for World Hunger through ELCA.
If you would like to give to this ministry, you may do so online
or baskets are available as you come forward for Communion.*

Special Music

“God’s Work, Our Hands”

Mary Davis

Flute - Karlene Drake

Piano - Pam Crowell and Joan Krueger

String Bass - Sara Krohn

Offering Prayer

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church (the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.)

Members: Cheryl, Anita, Sue, Sally, Vickie

Family & Friends: Dale, Nikki, Janet, Wes, Emily, Andy, Janette, Sally,
Karla, Leon, Dee, Carol

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

Invitation to Communion

P: All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

please be seated.

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome.

Those who do not wish to take Communion may come forward for a blessing.

Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

God's Work Our Hands Blessing

SENDING

Blessing

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

The God of grace bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Song

All Things are Possible

Dismissal

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Giga"

Henry Bargess the Younger

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

THEME OF THE WEEK - CONFIDENCE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

God gives us the scriptures to create and sustain faith, expose the powers of sin and death, guide us in lives of love and justice, and proclaim the forgiveness and new life that are ours in Christ. The Holy Spirit writes these words not only upon our minds and hearts but also upon our lips, so that we may share God's promises with others. Through this living word, the Spirit gathers neighbors and strangers into the community of Christ and gives us confidence in God's grace, now and in the life to come.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:24–34 Contentment in Christ

Jesus tells us not to be consumed by anxiety about our daily needs. These words are not meant to shame those who struggle with worry or suggest that faith makes every fear disappear. Instead, Jesus turns our attention toward the faithful care of God, who feeds the birds and clothes the lilies. Our confidence rests not in our ability to control tomorrow but in the crucified and risen Christ, who meets us amid uncertainty and promises to remain with us. In baptism, we are clothed with Christ, and at the table we receive the gifts of grace that strengthen us for today. Gracious God, when worry overwhelms us, surround us with your care and help us seek your reign of justice and peace. Amen.

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:113–120 Our Shelter and Shield

The psalmist lives amid conflict and turns to God for refuge. When competing voices divide our loyalties and fear threatens to overwhelm us, God's Word calls us back to the promises of mercy, justice, and steadfast love. This does not mean that faithful people will escape every danger or hardship. It means that suffering and evil cannot separate us from the God revealed in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit sustains us through scripture, through our prayers, and through the community of faith—giving us courage to resist evil and find hope amid uncertainty. Thanks be to God! Faithful God, be our shelter and shield. Hold us in your mercy and keep us rooted in your life-giving word. Amen.

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:25–6:10 Sowing Good Things

Life in the Spirit is not measured by competition, pride, or comparison. Paul calls us instead to restore one another gently, bear one another's burdens, and persevere in doing what is good. These actions do not earn God's favor; they grow from the grace already given to us in Christ. The Holy Spirit frees us from being turned inward upon ourselves and draws us into lives of generosity and care for our neighbors. We may not immediately see the fruit of every act of love, but God continues to work through what is planted in faith. Holy Spirit, free us from pride and discouragement. Help us bear one another's burdens and sow seeds of mercy, justice, and peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34 True Christian Humility

"I will bless the Lord at all times," the psalmist declares—not because life is always easy, but because God hears the cries of those who suffer. Christian humility does not mean making ourselves small, denying our gifts, or quietly accepting mistreatment. It means recognizing that our lives depend upon God's grace and that the gifts entrusted to us

are meant for the good of our neighbors. We come before God with empty hands, and God fills them with mercy. Having tasted God's goodness, we are sent to stand beside the brokenhearted and work for the deliverance of those who are oppressed. Merciful God, deliver us from pride and despair. Teach us to receive your gifts with gratitude and use them in loving service. Amen.

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:4–7 A Living Confession

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone." These words, known as the Shema, stand at the heart of Jewish faith and practice. They remind us that faith is more than something expressed during worship; it shapes our conversations, relationships, our home-life, and the daily decisions we make. God's people are called to remember God's commands but not simply in a way that allows us to recite them from memory. Rather we are to teach them across generations, and embody them through whole-hearted love of God and neighbor. We honor this living confession from the past while also recognizing its call to us in the present: let God's Word dwell deeply among us and take flesh in lives of love. Faithful God, plant your word within us, speak it through us, and let it bear fruit for our neighbors. Amen.

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38–42 One Thing Is Needed

Martha welcomes Jesus into her home and serves him, while Mary sits at his feet as a disciple. Jesus does not condemn service, which is central to the Christian life. He recognizes, however, that Martha has become worried and distracted and invites her to receive what cannot be taken away. We too can become so occupied with doing things for God that we forget to rest in what God has already done for us. Christ meets us through word and sacrament, our prayers, faithful service, and the community gathered in His name. From this place of grace, we are renewed to love our neighbors without believing that everything depends upon us. Jesus, quiet our anxious hearts and help us receive your presence with joy. Amen.

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26–39 Always about Jesus

The Ethiopian official is reading the prophet Isaiah when Philip approaches and asks whether he understands. Philip does not dismiss the official's questions or the Jewish scriptures he is reading. Beginning with that passage, Philip shares the good news of Jesus—the crucified and risen Christ in whom God's promise of welcome and abundant life is revealed. Their conversation ultimately leads to baptism. The Spirit still draws us into unexpected encounters, opens scripture within community, and crosses the boundaries people construct between one another. God's Word is not merely information about what we should do; it is the living proclamation of what God has done and continues to do in Christ. Holy Spirit, open the Scriptures to us and lead us to recognize and share the good news of Jesus. Amen.

Weekly Reflection

Peter asks Jesus how often he must forgive, and Jesus responds with a vision of mercy that cannot be measured or earned. Because God meets us with grace in Christ, forgiveness is not denial of harm or a refusal to seek justice; it is the Spirit's work of freeing us from the grip of resentment and making us instruments of reconciliation. Each time we hear forgiveness proclaimed in worship, we are renewed in our baptismal calling to share Christ's mercy in the world.

- Where am I tempted to hold a grudge, or "demand repayment" from someone else in my life? What purpose does that type of "keeping score" truly serve?
 - Besides our God's Work Our Hands activities
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Sunday Morning and Week Day Studies Begin!

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 16. The resource is The Wired Word which uses current events as lesson topics for each meeting. Relevant scripture is provided to guide the group's discussion in applying the lesson to our faith in today's world. Meetings are held in the Cross & Crown area from 8:30 to 10:00. Come and join us as we dig into God's Word together!

WOW (Women on Wednesday)

Beginning September 16, we meet from 9:15-11:00 each Wednesday in the Parlor. Those new to and experienced with Bible Study are welcome. We will be studying "Matthew, Together by Grace Bible Conversations."

KOG Women's Book Club

The group will be reading "The Ragamuffin Gospel" by Brennan Manning this fall. Group meets 2nd Friday of the month in the Parlor. Contact for questions is Kathy Peterson 317 402-1847.

We're Excited to Start Another School Year with Your Kids!

Sunday morning programming for all students will begin on Sunday September 20 at 9:00. Students in K-5th grade will meet in the Gloryland area. Lead teachers for this group are Brandon Hulse and Liz Lichtenberger, with several assistants.

Confirmation Now on Sunday Mornings at 9:00

We're excited to offer Confirmation at this new time. The class will be called *Faith Conversations with Pastor Erik; Confirmation & Beyond*. High School students are welcome (encouraged!) to attend as this gives our older youth a chance to keep exploring and refining what they believe. Pastor Erik believes their experiences and questions will add a great deal to the conversation. We'll see you September 20th back in the Cross & Crown area.