**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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July 26, 2020

PRELUDE Gammal fäbodpsalm frön Dalarna Oskar Lindberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ELW Holy Communion Setting Eight

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. **Amen**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ☩ Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**   **ELW 689**

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**GREETING**

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

**KYRIE**

**C:\Users\Messiah\Downloads\ELW Setting Eight Kyrie (Melody) (2).tif**

C:\Users\Messiah\Downloads\ELW Setting Eight Glory (Melody) (2).tif**Canticle of Praise**

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### Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

5At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” 6And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. 7And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. 9Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” 10It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

### Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

*When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.*(Ps. 119:130)

129Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.  
 130**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**  
 131I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.  
 132**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**   
 133Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.  
 134**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**  
 135Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.  
 136**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

### Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God’s actions for us. Through Christ’s death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God’s love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

26The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

C:\Users\Messiah\Downloads\ELW Setting Eight Alleluia (Melody) (1).tif**Gospel Acclamation**

### Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew’s gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people’s lives.

31[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;32it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”  
  33He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” 44“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.  
  45“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 47“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” 52And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**Apostles’ Creed**

**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.**

### Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. (Here a particular world struggle may be named.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**



### 

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

**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.**

### Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ☩ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

**Sending HYMN**  **ELW 517**

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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Postlude Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word setting, Paul Manz

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| Messiah Lutheran Church | |  |  |
| 6/30/2020 |  |  |  |
|  | Actual | Actual | Budget |
|  | Jun-20 | Jan - Jun 20 | Jan - Jun 20 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Revenue | $7,152.28 | $88,584.68 | $74,130.00 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Expenses | 12,262.90 | 83,163.63 | 82,715.10 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Surplus (Deficit) | -$5,110.62 | $5,421.05 | -$8,585.10 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Reserve Balance | $75,719.15 |  |  |

***Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray* Members of Messiah**:

Rolland Christenson, Har Shogren, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Sue Untz, Betty Peterson, Macie Carlson. Friends and family of Norm Yoder

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Friends of Messiah**  Donna Stejksal  Denise  Suzi Gentine  Bill Stephenson  Dawn  CJ Griffith’s  Bryan Otte | Daniels' friend  Pari Ford’s mother  Paul’s sister-in-law  Joy Janis’s brother  Sharon Hoffman’s Daughter  Carla Wilson and Corey Griffith’s brother  Chris Reinert’s brother | Erin Erb  Stephani White  Karla Goewert  Orin Shogren  Daniellle VanDeVyvere  Bruce Butler  Krista Bahler  Betty Finney  Meghan Presley | Friend of Sherry Peterson  Betty Holcombe’s daughter  Friend of Kirsten Bruce  Har’s brother  Robbie Peterson’s granddaughter  Mary Jo Roch  Betty Peterson’s Niece  Sharon Hoffman’s friend  John & Margaret Presley’s daughter |

**Serving the U.S.A.**

Alex Klapp Betty Russin’s grandson Vicki Charboneau Elaine Eller’s granddaughter

Ben Youngquist S Hoffman’s nephew Jeremy Guy Hensley’s son-in-law

Luke Hammontree Daniel’s grandson T.J. Paulsen Barb Malm’s child

**Serving the U.S.A. Overseas**  **Seminary**

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen’s son & wife Kaylie Ines

**Please pray for all affected by Covid-19**: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. As well, we pray for all who are being economically negatively affected by the virus and it’s social disruption

**Birthday’s next week:**

Aubrie Ellis 7/28 Mary Lindgren 7/28

Lois Carlson 8/1 Jennifer Tayler 8/1

**Anniversaries next week:**

Marc & Anne Anderson 8/1

**Announcements:**

**Youth Group Fund Raiser:** please keep in mind that the youth are still receiving donations for their initial fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering in 2021! You can give online or through the office. They are believing and hoping and trusting that the National Gathering will happen!

**The Executive Council** met and decided, that in the interest of health, it was best to postpone gathering for worship in the sanctuary. With the rising number of cases in our county and the governor’s postponement of the phase out, it is the right thing to do.   
  
COVID-19 has certainly put a wrinkle in many of our plans this year. But, some wonderful things have happening despite the pandemic. The Dala Pantry has taken off with great gusto. Who knew when Pastor Amy begins putting the pieces in place for Messiah to host this wonderful community resource last fall that our church would be able to answer the call in this unprecedented time. It is due, largely, to this congregation members’ time and support that this venture has been successful.   
  
Online worship has also given us a new way to gather and when looking at the numbers of people who view the online service we can tell our church’s message is reaching many throughout the smoky valley, state, country and world. Thank you to each of you for answering the call and adding so many wonderful parts with your recorded additions to the weekly services.   
  
We look forward to seeing you all in person and worshipping together again. We are hopeful this may be in August.

**July 15, 2020**

Happy middle of July from Grand View University and The Moses Project.

We are pleased to have your pastor participate in our 2020/2021 Moses Project cohort. The mission of The Moses Project is to give rural ELCA pastors a vision of ministry that will help them thrive in congregational leadership and in turn, enhance the vitality of the congregations they serve.

What does participation in the Moses Project look like for your pastor? The Moses Project runs ten months, has 20 participants from eight Midwestern states, and is cost free thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment. The program includes three onsite retreats: one in August, January, and May. Your pastor will also engage in mentoring, small group connections, and monthly common readings. This professional development program provides pastors critical support, promotes innovative strategies, and engages them in ongoing learning and opportunities for renewal. Thank you for supporting your pastor as they participate in this program. We ask that you continue to pray for your pastor as well as for The Moses Project. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @GVMOSESPROJECT. You can also check out our Resource Page at <https://www.mosesproject.org/>.

As a university of the ELCA, Grand View offers other opportunities for you and your congregational members to engage with the school.

**For Grand View Students, Campus Ministry serves them in many ways. Chapel is held once a week with different guest speakers often featured; there are also multiple Bible study groups, prayer groups, and evening worship offerings. Lutheran students are eligible for scholarships. Luther Memorial Church, at the center of campus, is undergoing extensive renovations. If you have questions, please contact the Sr. Campus Pastor, Rev. Dr. Russell Lackey at** [rlackey@grandview.edu](mailto:rlackey@grandview.edu)**.**

**The NEXUS High School Youth Theology Institute** is a free weeklong summer program designed to immerse high school students in Christian community while helping them think about a possible vocation in church ministry. Teaching is led by Grand View’s theology faculty and college age mentors help the students put their faith into practice. For more information please contact Nexus Director, Kate Faas at [kfaas@grandview.edu](mailto:kfaas@grandview.edu) or visit <https://www.grandview.edu/academics/other-programs/nexus> to apply for the free program.

We are humbled by the ways in which God is working through these programs. Thank you again for your partnership with The Moses Project.

Warmest Regards,

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Dr. Trisha Wheelock Rev. Dr. Russell Lackey

Program Director, The Moses Project Program Manager, The Moses Project