

First English Lutheran Church
1311 E. 18th Street
Spencer, Iowa 51301

8:00 am and 10:45 am Sunday School Rally Sunday
Pentecost 14

Paul Kaldahl, Pastor
Kristin Kaldahl, Organist

August 30, 2026
Phone: 712-262-5598

Prelude, Bells

Processional Hymn – LSB #837 “Lift High the Cross”

(Please rise and face the cross as it processes into the sanctuary)

The Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1. Come, Christians follow where Our Captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.

Refrain

3. All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.

Refrain

4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Raise us, and let Your cross the magnet be.

Refrain

5. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!

Refrain

WELCOME

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Friends in Christ, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord to grant us forgiveness.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. We have broken Your Commandments and have not loved you or others, as we ought. In Your great love, forgive us. Give us power to repent of our sin that we might delight in Your

will and live according to Your desires. We ask this in the name of Jesus through whom we are Your people.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(10:45 Service)

BAPTISM HYMN – LSB # 593 “See This Wonder in the Making”

BAPTISM – Ledger Gene Todd, son of Maclain & Kaitlyn Todd, Sponsor-Kolton Essick

INTROIT: *(Based on Psalm 100, Psalm 119:105, and Matthew 19:14)*

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

C: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

P: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

C: Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I will keep it to the end.

P: Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them,

C: For to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

P: Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His;

C: We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

C: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

COLLECT

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You for providing our everlasting salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Empower us by Your Spirit to faithfully tell the next generation of Your great works. Bless our Sunday School and our teachers, so that through them and the Word which they share, the people in our church and community may grow in their relationship with You and with one another. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Jeremiah 15:15-21 ^{ESV}

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,

my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

EPISTLE – Romans 12:9-21 ^{ESV} Marks of the True Christian

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL – Matthew 16:21-28 ^{ESV}

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMM – LSB #645 “Built on the Rock”

SERMON

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN – LSB #740 “I Am Jesus Little Lamb”

1. I am Jesus’ little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev’ry day the same, Even calls me by my name
2. Day by day at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go; Where the quiet waters flow.
3. Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast; There within His arms to rest.

P: Will our volunteer Sunday and Midweek School teachers please come forward.

PLACEMENT OF FELC TEACHERS

Friends in Christ. Guided by the Spirit of God, we, the people of God in this place, have chosen you to lead the children, youth, and adults of this congregation in their study of the Scriptures for their mutual edification and their preparation for service in our church and in the world. We have placed upon you a high honor and an awesome responsibility. We pledge to you our full support and our sincere prayers as you undertake this noble service. May God be with you in your private devotions, your personal study of the Word, and your growth in understanding and skills through meetings with your fellow teachers. May the Spirit bless in full measure your service among us.

INSTALLATION OF FELC TEACHERS

P: The almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, enlighten and strengthen you in your office that through you and your guidance the people of God may grow in their faith and life, and that many of those who do not know God may be drawn by the Spirit into His fellowship.

(All workers may return to their places.)

(Please Rise)

PRAYER FOR OUR TEACHING MINISTRY

P: Lord God, you have given us the responsibility to educate our children in the Christian faith so that they might grow in the knowledge and instruction of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and be saved for all eternity. Give us a rich measure of your Holy Spirit that we may nurture them in your Word. Equip our teachers, but also equip our parents. Help the parents of our children to continue in your Word, to teach it diligently to their families, and to work together with all the people of our congregation. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

GENERAL PRAYER

P: Heavenly Father, we thank You that through your Word You continue to reveal to us Your will and lead us into all truth. Give us a stronger desire to grow in Your Word within the fellowship of all believers. Bless all of the study groups within this congregation so that they may enable us all to grow in our faith and life, and to reach out to those who may not know You now. Lord in Your mercy...

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Lord, make our Sunday School a place where Your Word is taught in its truth and purity, where Christ is proclaimed, and where all who gather are strengthened in faith and encouraged in love toward one another. Lord in Your mercy...

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Strengthen our teachers with wisdom, patience, and joy as they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Fill them with Your Spirit so that their words and actions reflect Your love. Lord in Your mercy...

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Bless our children and all who learn. Open their hearts to trust in Jesus, to grow in faith, and to delight in Your promises. Guard them from all harm and help them to know that they are Your dearly loved children, redeemed by Christ. Lord in Your mercy...

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: Be with parents and families. Give them courage to lead their homes in faith, to pray together, and to model lives shaped by Your grace. Lord in Your mercy...

C: Hear our Prayer.

P: We pray also for those among us who are in need of your comfort and aid. Restore to health all who are sick, or shut-in, or hospitalized; especially... Grant them strength by the promises of your Word, uplift the oppressed, lonely, and despairing among us.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

P: Will the teachers of First English Christian Preschool and Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School please come forward.

REDEDICATION OF OUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Dear *(brothers / sisters)* in Christ, through the ministry and outreach of First English Lutheran Church, God has placed some of you to serve as teachers of First English Christian Preschool. God has called the rest of you to serve Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School as teachers for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It is a great work to which our heavenly Father as called you with great joy. This office of ministry has been established in love by the Church to support the office of the Holy Ministry and to assist in strengthening Christian fathers and mothers in their God-given responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord.

You have prepared yourselves to be approved by God through prayer and study of His Word to be an example to God's flock as you declare yourselves ready to undertake this sacred responsibility and public trust of teaching and training children in the faith.

Hear the Word of God:

Colossians 3:15-17, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Beloved in the Lord, God has called you to assist pastors in the instruction of God's people according to His holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves daily for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Small Catechism. Do you promise to be faithful in worship, devotion, and prayer so that you might be prepared to fulfil this sacred duty? If so, answer: I will.

Teachers: I will.

While wholeness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of our congregation, it is especially important that you show yourselves approved through your faithful devotion to God and His Church.

So, in the presence of God and this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position of parochial schoolteacher that has been entrusted to you — do you promise to faithfully carry out your duties at First English Christian Preschool or at Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School in accordance to the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church — and do you rededicate your service to the Lord as you embark on this new school year? If so, answer: I do.

Teachers: I do.

(Congregation, PLEASE RISE, as the Pastor addresses you)

Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of these parochial schoolteachers. Do you promise to support their ministry? Do you promise to support their work by remembering them in your prayers—by working joyfully with them—and by helping them be the best they can be according to the gifts God has given you? Do you promise to uplift and encourage them so that do not grow weary in their tasks? If so, then answer: We do.

C: We do.

Let us pray. O Lord, grant to these faithful servants the gift of wisdom and discretion, kindness and tenderness—so that they may effectively teach and guide the children you have assigned for their tutelage. May your Holy Spirit guide them in their continued learning about Your Word so that they might be better equipped to share it with their students; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

So go now in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable—always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN – “Shepherd of Tender Youth” (LSB #864 1-4)

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND POSTLUDE

✠ ✠ **VISITORS AND MEMBERS** ✠ ✠

Sometime during the service, we ask that everyone fill out one of the cards found in the pew racks so that we might have a record of your worship with us today. For our visitors we ask that you please sign our Guest Register on the table next to the front door as you leave. We are pleased to have you join us this morning as we praise our great God and encourage you to visit us again when possible.

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www.spencer-church.com

Rev. Paul Kaldahl, Pastor