

First English Lutheran Church

1311 East 18th Street

Spencer, Iowa 51301

8:00 & 10: 45 am Non-Communion Services

Paul E. Kaldahl, Pastor

Pentecost 18

September 27, 2026

Kristin Kaldahl, Organist

Phone: 262-5598

Prelude and Ring of the Bells

Opening Hymn - LSB # 549 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Welcome

Dialog

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

C: Maker, Redeemer, Life-giver, Amen!

P: Amen means, "Yes, Yes, It shall be so."

C: It is a word we use when God's Word and Truth is revealed to us.

P: O Lord, You have revealed Yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: To Your holy name, we SAY "Amen!"

P: In this name, O Lord, we were baptized.

C: To Your holy calling, we Say "Amen!"

P: For this name, O Lord, You ask us to serve with gladness.

C: Take us. Fill us. Use us. Enable us to say "Amen!"

P: At Your name, O Lord, we bow in worship

C: and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, "Amen!"

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

AND HEAR HIS MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS

P: Each week, through the ministry of God's holy Church and the power of His word, the forgiveness of sins is offered to you and to millions throughout the world. Let us now examine our hearts to see how faithfully we have received and carried forth this great gift of God. (*A brief silence is kept*) Let us confess our sin to God.

C: Father, I have sinned against You. I know my sin is truly great because I have known Your commands and still, I do wrong and fail to do right. Even when I have confessed my sin, I forget that repentance means not only admitting guilt, but changing my life to put You first in all things, as Your First Commandment teaches. Forgive me for Jesus' sake and make me new and whole again.

P: God forgives us no matter how often or how grievously we have sinned, God's power to save is greater! His Son paid the ransom for our bondage to sin with His own life. His love purifies us and leads us into the greatest fellowship the world has ever known, His family of believers. Rejoice then, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: God grant it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hymn of Psalm 23 – LSB # 710

Old Testament - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 The word of the LORD came to me: ² "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³ As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. ²⁵ "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰ "Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so, turn, and live."

Dialog Prayer

P: God, give us gratitude to know

C: that Your Word was given by Your Holy Spirit for our mutual growth.

P: God, give us obedience to know

C: that the Word empowers us to live lives of forgiveness that we might faithfully study and learn Your Word so that the Truth might set us free.

P: God, give us joy to know

C: that the beauty of Solomon's temple was as nothing when compared to the beauty of Your Word dwelling in us -- in the temple of your children. Amen.

Epistle – Philippians 2:1-18 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Dialog Prayer

P: God, give us grace to know

C: the joy of participating in the learning of Your Word and the message of our victorious resurrection through Christ.

P: God, give us wisdom to know

C: how to discern right from wrong and truth from falsehood that we might grow in the stature and wisdom of our Lord.

P: God, give us love to know

C: that Your Word is a lamp that is to be shared with the world. Let us not keep the Light of Your Word selfishly locked up inside our hearts, but equip us to joyously learn the Scriptures so that we might learn to share them in love. Amen.

P: Please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel. The Holy Gospel according to...

C: (spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32 And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸ What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

(After the reading . . .)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(spoken)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Hymn - LSB # 655 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Sermon

DIALOG PRAYER

P: God, give us courage to know

C: **That Your Word gives us endless blessings that we might boldly stand in defense of our faith being well founded in the truth.**

P: God, give us comfort to know

C: **that as we hear, Learn and Inwardly digest Your Word that You will never leave us or forsake us.**

P: God, give us faith to know

C: **That the Holy Spirit continues to guide Your Church through the gift of Your Word. Amen.**

Offering

Musical Offering

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: O Savior, let our church and its members be effective in the mission of sharing Your Word to a lost and dying world. Bless those portions of our offerings that support mission work here in Spencer, Iowa and throughout the world.

C: *(sung to tune LSB #781)*

**Hearts still are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.**

P: Merciful God, it is the ministry and concern of Your Church to give counsel and comfort to those who are sick or sad [Special petitions for the sick or bereaved may be offered here.]. Bless the church workers and facilities that are supported by our offerings, that they may have great effect in the lives of our people.

C: *(sung)*

To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe, To tend those lost in loneliness Is angels' work below.

P: Bless the educational ministries of our church, especially our Pre-school, our Parochial School – IGLLS, our G.I.F.T. midweek program, and our VBS and Sunday School programs. Give us enthusiasm for this work and generous hearts for their support.

C: *(sung)*

The captive to release, The lost to God to bring, To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

P: Lord, if we were to try to support these ministries on our own, we could not succeed. But You have promised in Malachi, chapter three: " Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,' says the Lord Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.' "

C: *(sung)*

And we believe Your word, Though dim our faith, it's true: What we do for Your people, Lord, We do it all for you.

P: Guide us all by Your Truth for Your Word is Truth. May God grant it for Jesus' sake.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *(sung to "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" LSB #366)*

**Our Father, Lord on heav'ns high throne,
Most holy be Your Name.**

Your kingdom come, Your will be done

On earth – in heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need;

Forgiven may we be;

Into temptation do not lead;

From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto You

In grateful love we bow;

And yours the pow'r, Lord, let us view

Your mighty presence now.

The glory yours; Your praise be sung

Throughout the world again

In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue

Forevermore! Amen!

Blessing

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Hymn – LSB # 900 “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

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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Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2:1-2

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www.spencer-church.com

Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl, Jr., Pastor