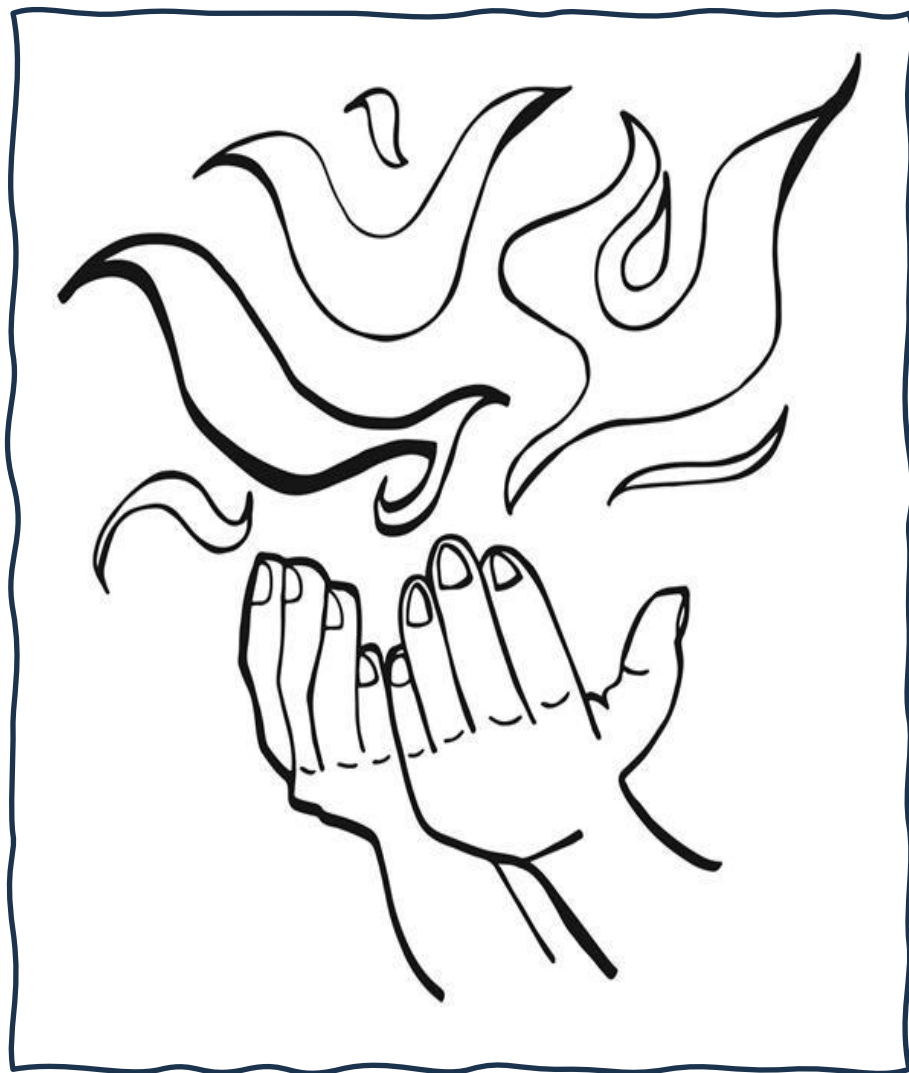


LUNDER LUTHERAN CHURCH

"One in Christ Lutheran Parish"

Albert Lea, MN



Pentecost 15

September 6, 2026

LUNDER LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Member of One in Christ Lutheran Parish"

Transitional Pastor

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One in Christ Web Page

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Ministers

Every Member of this Parish

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshiping with us this morning. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who has called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified the whole Christians Church. It is this Spirit of God who empowers us to be forgiven and to forgive, and unites the Church as one body in Christ.

SPIRIT, SET OUR HEARTS ON FIRE!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(*Stand as you are able)

Prelude/Silence for Meditation

Words of Welcome and Announcements

*CONFESSION

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word,

and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

***EXPERIENCING GOD’S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. By his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **✠** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING SONG “Oh, Sing to the Lord” (vss 1-5) # 822

***APOSTOLIC GREETING** p. 147

***KYRIE** p. 147

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** “Glory to God in the Highest” p. 148

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD’S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus’ words in today’s gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

- ³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
- ³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**
- ³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
- ³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
- ³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
- ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(4)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Alleluia” p. 151

*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Janora Hodges

SONG OF THE DAY “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” # 656

***APOSTLE’S CREED** p. 105

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

...Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

*SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY** “Create in me...”

#186

*LORD’S PRAYER

p. 154

***CLOSING SONG** “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” # 543

***BENEDICTION**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

*Ringing of the Bell

***PARTING BLESING**

May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever. Grant us peace, perfect peace, courage, in every endeavor. Lift your eyes and see his face and his Grace forever. May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are empowered by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God

Postlude

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Community Is Complicated

Navigating life with other humans is not always easy. We who call ourselves the church likely know this all too well. Perhaps you’ve witnessed church council meetings gone awry, frustrating conversations about the budget, or intense disagreements over worship styles. Maybe your faith community has had to navigate conflicting visions for mission and outreach, welcome and hospitality, or diversity and justice. Maybe the generational or political divides in your community feel like rifts too big to cross. As the church, we are called to wrestle with difficult questions about faith and life, but at times, even with the best of intentions, we leave one another feeling hurt, overlooked, or misunderstood.

Jesus knew a thing or two about life in community. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by the ones he loved. He shared meals with people of different backgrounds, people whose identities at times put them at odds with one another. Even his disciples never quite seemed to be on the same page! Yet Jesus knew that despite the complexity of these situations, faith is best practiced in community. Accompanying one another, sharing one another’s burdens, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and holding each other accountable are vital to the Christian life.

Therefore, managing conflict is not something to be taken lightly. Disagreements are not to be just swept under the rug, ignored until the next issue emerges. We are instead called to embrace truth-telling, courage, accountability, and compassion in our dealings with one another. The work of conflict resolution is not easy or glamorous. In fact, it can be awkward and downright painful. But it is holy work. And by God’s grace, it can be an invitation to build a community that more truly reflects God’s love poured out for the whole world.