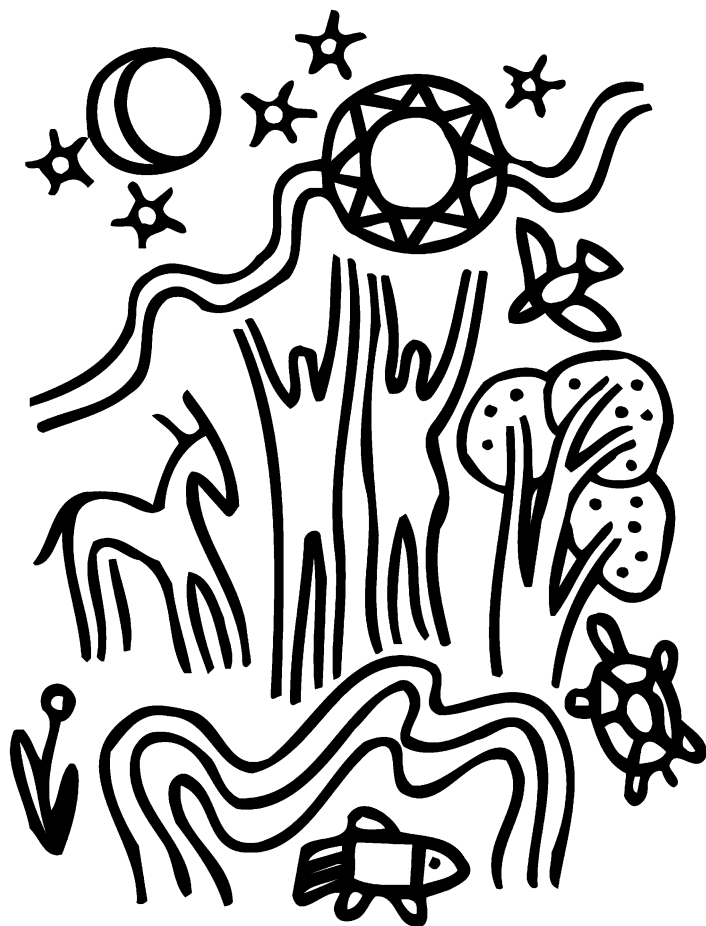


WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Member of "One in Christ Lutheran Parish"

Lake Mills, Iowa



CREATION SUNDAY

Pentecost 15

September 6, 2026

WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN CHURCH

40029 210th Avenue, Lake Mills, Iowa 50450

Phone # 567-3675 E-mail oneinchrist@oneinchristlutheranparish.org

web page – www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org

Ministers	Those gathered in and sent from worship		
Transitional Pastor	<i>Burton Everist</i>	653/564-1279	Email: interim@mchsi.com
Lay Preachers	Janora Hodges, Harlan Nyhus, & Kermit Singelstad		
Parish Office	Phone #567-3550	oneinchrist@wctatel.net	Cassie Johnson
Chairperson	(#641-590-5036)		Zach Egesdal
Organist	Deb Nyhus		
Lector	Sandy Lindflott		
Ushers	Rich & Sandy Lindflott, Jerry & Bonnie Charlson		
Acolytes	Piper Schmidt, Carter Egesdal		
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost			August 30, 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

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home. Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we are often numb to the pain of

the world around us, resistant to change, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.

Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will.

Amen.

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

Hear the good news is for us all: God knows us, forgives us by † Jesus Christ, freeing us to love the world as we have been loved.

Amen.

***OPENING SONG** *“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”* **#524**

***APOSTOLIC 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.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

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

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

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.

Congregation participates in the reading by speaking the bolded sections

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³

Then God said,

“Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.

And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶ And God said,

“Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome.

And it was so.

⁸ God called the dome Sky.

And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹ And God said,

“Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”

And it was so.

¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.

And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said,

“Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.”

And it was so.

¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.

And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said,

“Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.”

And it was so.

¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness.

And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said,

“Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴ And God said,

“Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said,

“Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in God’s own image, created them in the image of God; created them male and female.²⁸

God blessed them, and God said to them,

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

²⁹ God said,

“See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.”

And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work God had done, and rested on the seventh day from all the work God had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:22a, 24-28

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.*

***GOSPEL READING**

John 1:1-5

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

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Burton Everist

SONG OF THE DAY “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #526

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

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.**

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY** *"Create in Me..."*

ELW # 186

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' (first staff), 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' (second staff), 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' (third staff), and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' (fourth staff).

*PREFACE

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav-en. and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is more complex than the previous section, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,' (first staff), 'heav-en. and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the' (second staff), 'high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -' (third staff), and 'san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' (fourth staff).

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG** *“Earth and All Stars!”*

#558

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are empowered by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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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.