



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 20, 2026
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope, and Love

Introduction:

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

BELL

WELCOME

BEHOLD WEEKLY CHALLENGE QUESTION

MARY MAGDALENE AWARD

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: “Gather Us In” (ELW 532)**

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,**

give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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***GREETING:**

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

C: **And also with you.**

***KYRIE: *Congregation sings response* (ELW pg. 138)**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let

us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *"This is the Feast"* (ELW pg. 140)**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**2 Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**3 Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**4 For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P: Almighty and eternal God,

**C: You show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we
cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and
train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: JONAH 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?" Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 145: 1-8 ~ Congregation reads the *bold*

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that, by my presence again with you, your boast

might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. Here ends the second reading.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *sung* (ELW pg. 142)

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour,

and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last." The Gospel of the Lord... **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S TIME & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Take My Life, That I May Be" (ELW 583)

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;

take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Last petition sing: “Take, Oh Take Me As I Am” (ELW 814)

- L: Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

- L: Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good
news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace
to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: In a world where too many work for wages which cannot sustain them or their families, make us vigilant advocates of employment justice everywhere. Show us how doing the right thing for the disadvantaged is beneficial to all. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need especially Jerry, Bruce, Cheryl, Chris, Kristy, Ricky, Larry, Joan, Dennis, Lois, Bev, Gary, Shirley, Joyce, Allison, Becky, Kim, Sara, Marg, Karen, Pete, Lynnsy, Barb, Wes, Audrey, and Dirk. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.



Please stand as you are able

***APOSTLES' CREED: (ELW pg. 105)**

**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.**

***PEACE:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

OFFERING

*We thank you for our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help this
congregation, to continue our ministry together, and to make Christ known in
our communities and the world.*

OFFERING HYMN: “Sing with All the Saints in Glory” vs. 3 (CLH 426)

3 Life eternal! heav'n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
when, amid earth's closing thunders,
saints shall stand before the throne!

Text: William J. Irons, 1812-1883, alt.

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: God of abundance,

C: We have all that we need, and yet so often we feel that we deserve more.
May these gifts that we offer be given in gratitude for your many
blessings, for the sake of furthering your justice toward all people. For the
sake of our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING: spoken (ELW pg. 107)**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift our hearts to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION: sung “Remember Now My Children”**

The night of His betrayal, our Lord took bread.

He broke it and he blessed it, and then he said,

“My body given for you is what this means,

remember now my children what you have seen.”

And then He took the chalice, and raised it high.
"My body broken for you, a full supply...
a covenant, a promise, a cleansing stream.
Remember now, my children, what you have seen."

We share this food together, remembering Christ;
we share a common treasure and know the price
we share it without measure, a gift of love;
we share our life forever, with God above.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *spoken*

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.

*** EUCHARISTIC INVITATION:**

P: In your kingdom the last are first and the first are last. Gather us now around your table with all our brothers and sisters, regardless of rank, age, background, or disposition. Feed us all on the same food, that we may be one in our desire to follow and serve you all our days. Come to the feast that our savior has prepared for all!

Please be seated

COMMUNION

The acolytes, ushers, organist and those assisting with communion should come forward at this time and receive around the rail. Following the assistants, we celebrate Holy Communion around the altar. The ushers will direct you. We welcome all to the Lord's Table where we experience the unity that God intends for all people. Gluten-free wafers and apple juice are available.

COMMUNION HYMN: “O Master, Let Me Walk with You” (ELW 814)

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.**

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Jesus Loves Me!” (ELW 595)

- 1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.**

Refrain

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

- 2 Jesus loves me! he who died**

heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

- 3** Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

Please stand as you are able

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: God of our salvation,

C: We give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

***BLESSING:**

May God be merciful to us and bless us.

May the light of God's face shine upon us.

May God ✚ walk with us, wherever we go, in peace and love.

THREE FOLD AMEN

***SENDING SONG: *"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"* (ELW 669)**

- 1 Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.**
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.**
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.**
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.**
- 5 Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!**

Text: Norman O. Furness, b. 1936

Text © Norman O. Furness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***DISMISSAL:**

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart Sara Skoglund
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Chris Clapshaw – step-brother of Mark Ratajesak
Wes & Barb Hoyhtya – friends of the Thoms
Audrey Plessner - sister of Kathy Mittag
Dirk Bergquist – friend of Esther members
Family and Friends of: Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt,
Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Bruce Carter, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta,
Kathy Wilkins, Ivy Christensen, Jim Schlosser, Leroy Olson, Dale
Flemming, Wally Schlosser, and Carter Stockert

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, September 20th – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship

9 am - Sunday School

9:15 am – Behold Connect & Reflect: Coffee & Conversation

10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend

11 am – Youth Meeting

11 am – 9th Grade Confirmation Student Meeting

2 pm – Worship at St. William’s

Wednesday, September 23rd

6 pm – Confirmation

Thursday, September 24th

10 am – 6 pm - Plan and Protect Today and for Tomorrow. FREE seminar sponsored by Lind Family Funeral Home at the Alexandria Chapel. RSVP at 320-335-2000 by Friday, September 18th.

Sunday, September 27th - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship

9 am - Sunday School

9 am – Third Grade Bible Class

9:15 am – Behold Connect & Reflect: Coffee & Conversation

10 am – Worship led by SAM Jewel Townsend

2 pm – Worship at St. William’s

NEWS AND NOTES

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening! Go to estherlutheran.com and click on “Esther Calendar.”

Connect & Reflect: Coffee & Conversation will be held on Sundays starting on at 9:15 – 9:40 am. We invite you to grab a cup of coffee and join us for a casual Sunday morning chat. Each week, we’ll look back at the Behold devotion sent out the previous Monday morning. Together we’ll share our thoughts, stories, and everyday experiences with that weeks; challenge question. Whether you read it on Monday or just want to listen in, you are welcome here as we build our faith and community together!

Plan and Protect Today and for Tomorrow. FREE seminar sponsored by Lind Family Funeral Home will be held at the Alexandria Chapel: 1623 10th Ave E Alexandria on Thursday, September 24th from 10 am – 6 pm. Speakers will be: Curt Lind – owner, Peter Lind- Funeral Director, Ellen Kappmeyer- Attorney, and Andy Weninger-Preplanning Specialist. Learn about funeral pre-planning vs pre-funding, how funeral plans work alongside estate planning, legal and financial

considerations, and protecting your family and your wishes. **Space is limited.**
RSVP by Friday, September 18th at 320-335-2000.

9th grade Confirmation students will meet TODAY and October 4th at 11 am. We will be planning your Confirmation worship service, answer any questions, pick out gowns, and run through your faith statements. Please turn in your faith statement to Jewel by October 1st.

Youth Meeting TODAY at 11 am. Parents and guardians encouraged to join. Pizza will be served!

Spruce Hill Church Open House is Saturday, October 3rd. The Open House will run 12:00-4:00 pm featuring live music from Brad Lambrecht at 1:00-2:00 pm on the church's historic reed organ. Come see behind the scenes of the current restoration and repair work at Spruce Hill Church, located at 12553 Ottertail Trail NE, Miliona.

Luther Crest Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 10th at 10 am.



The Bell Tower is leaking and needs to be repaired. Because of the high reach and difficult area to work with, we do not have an exact idea of cost, but it could surpass \$50,000. Please consider helping with this important and much needed repair. Help keep the bell ringing!

Please send your donation to the church: 11019 625th Ave Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 or scan the QR code.

Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the QR code, go online to [estherlutheran.com](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R), go to the tab “ways to support Esther Lutheran Church” and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R> or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.





We welcome you to join in the weekly “Behold the New Has Come” devotions available on our website estherlutheran.com on the “Behold” tab. Devotions are posted to the website and emailed out each Monday. If you are not currently on the email list and want to be, please notify Mandy in the office. Each weekly devotion includes a challenge for the week. This past week’s challenge is:

I would guess that the good medicine, the cheerful disposition and the love that we GET to share with others would spread like wildfire, reaching even those whose hearts have been hardened, or whose souls have felt the weight of the world. In what ways can you spread joy to your neighbor and your community today? What small thing, or what big thing, can you share with others that will put a smile on their face and yours?

We hope these devotions and weekly challenges will inspire conversations and stories that we can share with one another as, together, we grow in faith through this initiative.

Fall Conference Gatherings: Conference 5: October 15th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN and Conference 8: October 24th at Grace Lutheran in Brandon, MN.

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God’s image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther - “Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love”. If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com.

Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Facebook: facebook.com/estherlutheran/

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