



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 4, 2026
Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope, and Love

Introduction:

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

PRELUDE

BELL

WELCOME

BEHOLD WEEKLY CHALLENGE QUESTION

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

P: God, speak to us

C: **And we will listen.**

P: Show us your glory

C: **In the beauty of creation.**

P: Give us words of life,

C: **That we might live with you forever.**

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

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

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: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (ELW 803)**

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,**

I sacrifice them to his blood.

**3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

***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: Beloved God,

C **From you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your
Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance,
help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry! Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 80:7-15 ~ Congregation reads the *bold*

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹²Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

¹⁵behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. 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 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? ⁴³“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet. The Gospel of the Lord... **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S TIME & SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “The Church of Christ, in Every Age” (ELW 729)

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
 beset by change, but Spirit-led,
 must claim and test its heritage
 and keep on rising from the dead.**
- 2 Across the world, across the street,
 the victims of injustice cry
 for shelter and for bread to eat,
 and never live before they die.**

- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Last petition sing: *"Take, Oh Take Me As I Am"* (ELW 814)

L: God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew
and transform your holy church Inspire us to follow their example in our
own day. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell
within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in
creation. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and
relief to all who are sick or suffering especially Jerry, Bruce, Cheryl, 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: God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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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: “Nearer, My God, to Thee!” vs. 5 (CLH 426)

5 Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

United Methodist Hymnal, 1989

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: God of creation,

P: **You send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are**

from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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**

*** 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.

***EUCCHARISTIC INVITATION:**

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry,
come!

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 continuous. 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: *"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"* (ELW 802)

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us
and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading,
trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love,
let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where you guide.**
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,
and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
we shall reap celestial joy:
all discomforts that annoy
shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe;
help me there your joy to know.**
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction,
give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
that would lead us into sin;
and the grave that shuts us in
shall but prove the gate of heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die,**

there to live with you on high.

- 4 **Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken.
Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members;
where you live, there we shall be
in your presence constantly,
living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be;
life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION HYMN: “*Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*” (ACS 966)

- 1 **Loaves were broken, words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven,
was their food forevermore.**

Refrain

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

- 2 **Loaves were broken, words were spoken
in a quiet room one night,
In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light from Light.**

Refrain

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,**

**Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

- 3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages:
"I am with you; do not fear!"**

Refrain

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

- 4 By the loaves you break and give us,
send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care.**

Refrain

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

Refrain

**By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.**

Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

Please stand as you are able

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: Sustaining God,

**C: With this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us**

living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

***BLESSING:**

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.
The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.
The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

THREE FOLD AMEN

***SENDING SONG: “Thine the Amen” (ELW 826)**

- 1 Thine the amen thine the praise
 alleluias angels raise
 thine the everlasting head
 thine the breaking of the bread
 thine the glory thine the story
 thine the harvest then the cup
 thine the vineyard then the cup
 is lifted up lifted up.

- 2 Thine the life eternally
 thine the promise let there be
 thine the vision thine the tree
 all the earth on bended knee
 gone the nailing gone the railing
 gone the pleading gone the cry
 gone the sighing gone the dying
 what was loss lifted high.

- 3 Thine the truly thine the yes
 thine the table we the guest
 thine the mercy all from thee
 thine the glory yet to be
 then the ringing and the singing
 then the end of all the war
 thine the living thine the loving
 evermore evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize
 thine the wonder full surprise
 thine the banquet then the praise
 then the justice of thy ways
 thine the glory thine the story
 then the welcome to the least
 then the wonder all increasing
 at thy feast at thy feast.
- 5 Thine the glory in the night
 no more dying only light
 thine the river thine the tree
 then the Lamb eternally
 then the holy holy holy
 celebration jubilee
 thine the splendor thine the brightness
 only thee only thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Text © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***DISMISSAL:**

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

C: **Thanks be to God!**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson
Larry Sather

Kristy Fyhrie
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
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, Carter Stockert, Woodrow Peery, and Elaine Salvog.

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, October 4th - Nineteenth 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 Pastor Greg Billberg

11 am – 9th Grade Confirmation Student Meeting

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

Wednesday, October 7th

6 pm – Confirmation: Meal: Elliott Arvidson: Fifth & Sixth Commandments

Sunday, October 11th – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship

9 am - Sunday School

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

10 am – Worship led by Pastor Dennis Preston

2 pm – Worship at St. William's

4:30 pm – Youth Annual Hayride & Campfire at Tom & Joan Burquest's

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Pastor: Oct 4- Pastor Greg Billberg, Oct 11-Pastor Dennis Preston, Oct 18- SAM Jewel Townsend, Oct 25- SAM Jewel Townsend

Organists: Marcia Guenther

Altar Care: Deb Koep

Usher: Dave & Elliott Arvidson

Acolyte: Emma & Elliott Arvidson

Lay Reader: Deb Koep

Communion Assistant: Christy Hart

Birthday Card Sender: Deb Koep

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 Sundays starting 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 week's 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!

9th grade Confirmation students will meet TODAY at 11 am. We will be planning your Confirmation worship service, answer any questions, pick out gowns, and run through your faith statements.

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

Youth Annual Hayride & Campfire is planned for October 11th at 4:30 pm at Tom & Joan Burquest's. We'll have hot dogs, s'mores & snacks. Friends are welcome! Let Anna or Joan know if you have questions.

26th Annual Domestic Violence Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 14th from 11:45 am – 1 pm at the Broadway Ballroom in Alexandria. This annual event brings our community together to raise awareness, support survivors, and remember those whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence.

This year's speaker is Kari Kerr, MA, LPC. She is the Vice President of Prevention, Education and Violence Intervention at the Community Violence Intervention Center in Grand Forks, ND. Kari comes with more than 24 years of experience in victim advocacy, violence prevention, and professional training. Tickets: \$25 for individual, \$200 for a table of 8. Please let Luella Thom know if you would like to attend.



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, go to the tab "Give to 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:

How are we showing up for our neighbor, for our community and for our world? Are we serving out of selfishness, or for the accolades, or are we truly living out our faith as God intended for us to do? Where are you sharing what you know about the body of Christ with others, both young and old? As you pray this week, I invite you to pray for those that are working alongside you to make the world a better place.

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.

WELCA Fall Conference Gathering: Conference 8: October 24th at Grace Lutheran in Brandon, MN. Speaker will be a mother and son from Health Partners from Tanzania. Grace Lutheran supports this mission regularly. Contact Luella Thom for details.

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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