

FIRST READING Exodus 32:7-14

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

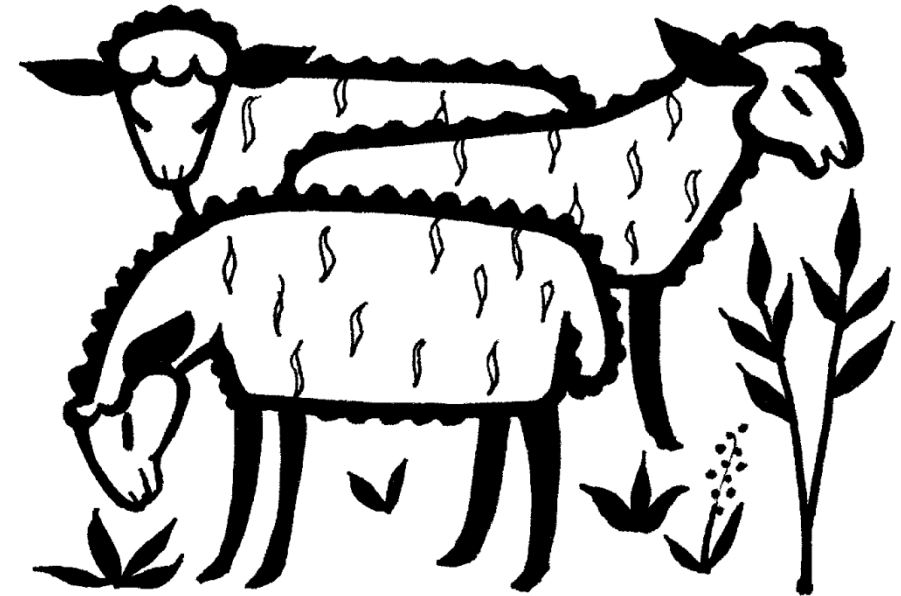
SECOND READING First Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL. Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 18, 2016

8:30 a.m.

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September 18, 2016
8:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
(218) 739-3348

Website: www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

Online
Giving
(QR Code)
email: firstlc@live.com



We welcome the 8th Grade Class to Confirmation and present them with their Confirmation Bible this morning.

Hope Fletchall, Madisen Hinsverk, Marissa Hurley, Hailey Knudson, Callie Knudson, Jacob Opatz, Ian Stumbo, Charlie Vaughn, Sam Western, Sophia Prischmann, Isaac Pederson, Karley Kugler, Koryna Loomer, Luke Opatz, Grace Opatz, Svea Smestad, Raven Vallevand, Jack Vogl and Emily Werner.

Today we hear a story of God's amazing love – love that looks for us when we are lost and love that holds us even when we've made many mistakes. How are we like the lost sheep? And how does God keep welcoming us home?

Prelude
Announcements

***Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

C: **Amen.**

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: God and Father of all,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.**
Amen.

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, + you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

C: **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

***Apostolic Greeting**

ELW Page 147

***Kyrie**

ELW Page 147

***Hymn of Praise**

Glory to God

ELW Page 148

***Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray. . . .

C **Amen**

8th Grade Milestone Blessing

We welcome Pastor Stan Satre as our Sunday morning Adult Bible Study leader beginning today and for the next several weeks. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee, fellowship, and stories with Pastor Stan at 9:45 in the conference room.

COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE: WOW (women of the word) invites you to a delicious event on **Sunday, October 16 at 2:00 pm.** Our speakers will be Jenny Stumbo of Stumbeano's coffee and Kristin Mohagen of Terroir Chocolates. These local entrepreneurs will share their stories of "two of our favorite things"!! Mark your calendars and join us for an afternoon of delightful decadence!

FALL 2016 GATHERING: Conference 7 Women of the ELCA Presents "My Journey Home" Guest speaker: Valeria Sohl. Breckenridge Lutheran Church, 301 6th St. N., Breckenridge, MN. Saturday, October 15th, 2016. Registration & Coffee: 9am Meeting & Program: 9:30am Noon Meal & Fellowship following. Sign up in the First Lutheran Church office by Sunday, September 25th. Write your check for \$10.00 to First Lutheran WELCA. On Saturday, Oct. 15, we will meet in the west church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to share rides to Breckenridge Lutheran Church in Breckenridge.

ATTENTION OWLS: Wednesday, October 19, we will travel by coach to see "Camelot" at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. Coach loads at 8:45 a.m. (lower level First Lutheran parking lot)and *departs at 9:00 a.m.* Cost per person, is \$60.00—that includes dinner, show, tax and gratuity. Coach paid by OWLS account. Plan to *return to Fergus around 7 p.m.* No stops on trip home. **Sign up and pay \$60 by check** (payable to First Lutheran OWLS) **before October 10.** Friends welcome!! Questions?? Call Margaret Kratzke @ 218-736-3697

Join the congregation today following the 11:00 a.m. worship to celebrate and appreciate Pastor Saul Stensvaag, for 17 years of service to our church, and his lovely wife & talented Children's Choir Director, Mary Kay, and their son, Ken, who has been actively involved with the youth of our congregation, as they say goodbye to this chapter and hello to the next. Bring a dish & fond memories to share, dessert will be served by our Fellowship Committee. If you are not able to be at the celebration, please stop at the Info Counter and sign the large pink card.

This Week at First Lutheran:

Today: 8:30 & 11 a.m. **Worship/8th Grade Milestone Blessing in worship**
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. **Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Stan Satre**
12:00 p.m. **Pastor Saul's Retirement Celebration & Potluck**

Monday: 9:00 a.m. WELCA Love Days
5:00 p.m. Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday: **MESSENGER DEADLINE**
9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon
10:00 a.m. AA
3:45-4:30 p.m. **First Children's Choir rehearsal**
4:30-5:15 p.m. **FLY 57**
6:00 p.m. Hosanna Handbells rehearsal
6:30 p.m. **8th Grade Confirmation Class**
7:00 p.m. **9th Grade Confirmation Class**
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal
8:00 p.m. **Senior FLY**

Thurs.: 9:30 a.m. Sr. Bible Study & Coffee
12-8 p.m. **Meals by Wheels Fundraiser**

Friday: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Next Sunday, September 25:

8:30 & 11 a.m. **Worship**
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. **Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Stan Satre**

First Reading

Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks mercy for them.
(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.
(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

***Gospel Acclamation**

(Congregational response sung after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

***Gospel**

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

(Congregational response sung after Gospel is read: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Sermon

The Joy of God's Love

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

The Lord's My Shepherd

ELW 778

(Children come forward on last verse)

Children's Event

Pastor Jennifer

***The Apostles' Creed**

Back Cover of ELW Hymnal

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

***The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

***The Prayers**

P ...Lord, in your mercy,

OR

P ... Let us pray to the Lord,

C hear our prayer.

C Lord, have mercy.

***The Lord's Prayer**

C 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

***Blessing**

***Threefold Amen**

***Sending**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***Closing Hymn**

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

ELW 763

Postlude

*denotes when to stand

Fellowship and Refreshments this morning in the narthex between services by the First Lutheran Fellowship Committee.

Altar Flowers are given by Bob & Vonnie Baker in celebration of their 66th wedding anniversary.

Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Larry Greenquist in memory of Arlene & LaVonne Greenquist.

Visitors! If you didn't get a "Welcome Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

Large Print Edition of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

Help a Farmer & Savor the Flavor of Local Foods: Community Dinner for Mark Boen

Please join us on Monday, September 19th from 5:00-7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Mark's health and his many contributions to our community by sharing a beautiful harvest meal. Free Will Donation. *Volunteers to help with the dinner are needed. Please contact Samantha at samantha@fergusfallsymca.org or 739-4489 if you can help!

We are still in need of volunteers to help at the farm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Call Lorri at [\(218\) 731-6579](tel:2187316579) for details and to sign up to help at the farm. Thank you in advance for your help!

Parents of Sunday school students: Please alert us to any changes in health concerns that your student has regarding allergies, injuries or needs, so that we may properly care for your child while attending Sunday school. There is a form you can fill out in our September Messenger, a health form (pink) in the church office, or you can call the office at (218)739-3348.

Check Out the New Books! The Library Committee put new books on the book cart in the narthex for easy checkout. Happy reading!

October Messenger Deadline is Tuesday, September 20th. Please have all items to the church office by this date to have it included. Thank you!

Associate Pastor:
 Sunday School Superintendent:
 Council President:
 Organist:
 Lectors:
 Acolytes:
 Cantor:
 Sacristan:
 PA Operator:

Jennifer Rose
 Cindy Larson
 Elizabeth Abrahams
 Keith Melberg
 Ashley Shuck
 Jacob Spangler
 Diane Prischmann
 Ashley Shuck
 Kevyn Heck