

August 30, 2015

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

FIRST LESSON. Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

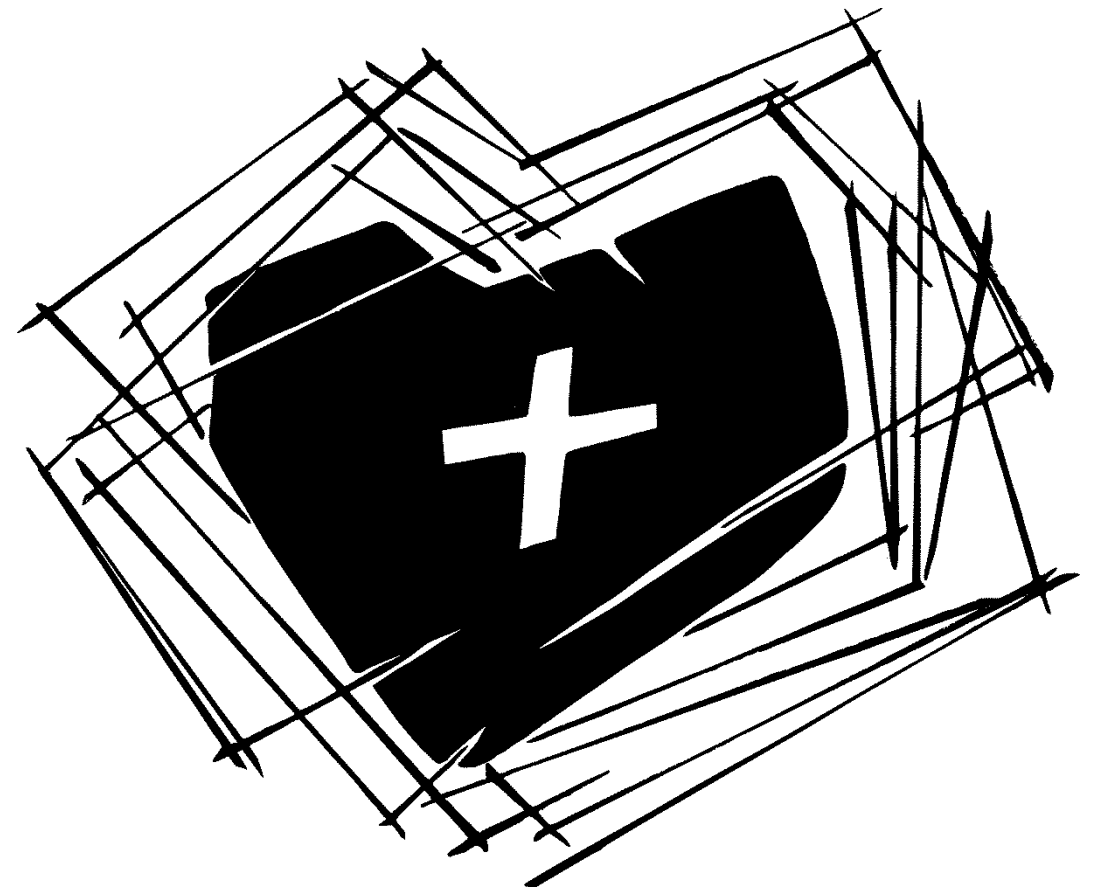
SECOND LESSON. James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL. Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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9:30 a.m.

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

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

firstlc@live.com

Online
Giving
(QR Code)



In a world where it is really easy to cleanse ourselves with hand sanitizer, wet wipes, and soap, God calls us to clean more than our exterior. Our interior is where the real dirt lives. God calls us to clean our hearts and minds and promises to walk with us even when we're dirty.

Prelude

Announcements

***Brief Order for 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**

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

***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**

This Week at First Lutheran:

Today: 9:30 a.m. Worship

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

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon
10:00 a.m. AA
5-6 p.m. Back to FLY Night (FLY K-7)

Thursday: 8:45 am Morning Watch – Pr. Saul– KBRF AM 1250
9:30 a.m. Sr Bible Study & Coffee

Friday: **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Next Sunday, September 6

9:30 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study resumes

Back to Fly Night: Parents of youth in grades K-7 are invited to come to the youth room, this Wednesday, September 2 for Back to FLY night. Feel free to drop in anytime between 5 and 6 PM. We will be eating a snack, making a craft that you can clip on your backpack, learning about the transportation that First Lutheran provides on Wednesdays after school, filling out health forms, and receiving a backpack blessing! Bring a parent and come join us for the fun!

Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Part-time Visitation Pastor:	Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Larson
Council President:	Lisa Wolfe
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Sacristan:	Carolyn Sund
Cantor:	Diane Boen
Ushers:	Kari & Cary Knudson, Karen & Robbie Olson
Greeters:	Ron & Teri Spangler
Acolyte:	Matthew Oehler
Lector:	Pamela Schroden
PA:	Margaret Ness-Ludwig

Coffee and Refreshments: Join us for coffee and goodies in the Narthex this morning, serving today is Shirley Peterson.

Altar Flowers are given by Bob & Mary Gaabo in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Orrie & Dalyce Leabo in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on September 4th.

Known Hospitalized: Dean Moore and Evelyn Horton-Kenyon at Lake Region Hospital.

Large Print Bulletins are available. If you would like a copy for worship, please ask an usher.

Visitors! If you didn't get a "Visitors 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.

Job Opportunity: We are looking for someone to fill the Nursery Caretaker position on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position - \$10-15 per hour. Please contact Pastor Jennifer, Steve Emerson, or the church office if you are interested in this position.

OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) EVENT: Monday, September 14 –to Prospect House (Civil War Museum) in Battle Lake. Leave FL parking lot (lower level) 10 a.m. We'll car pool to Battle Lake for 10:30 tour by Jay Johnson. More information on Kiosk or www.prospecthousemuseum.org. Admission is \$5—Write check to Prospect House when you sign up at Info Counter. Lunch in Battle Lake after tour.

PioneerCare Auxiliary will host its annual Apple Dumpling Day on Saturday, October 3 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. All are welcome to attend the autumn celebration and fundraiser at PioneerCare Center. Guests will enjoy warm apple dumplings and other treats and shop for home grown produce, canned items, crafts and more. Quilt drawing to be held at 4:00 PM. More details are available by calling Liane at 218-998-1506.

The Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for September 16, 17 and 18, and will be located at the Fergus Falls National Guard Armory. We would also like to remind you that 16 year olds may donate blood with a signed 'Official Red Cross Parental Consent Form'. These forms are available at the High School Main Office and online at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/students/sixteen>
Appointments can be made by calling: Dolly Johnson at 218-739-3772 and Phyllis Knutson at 218-736-7480

First Lesson

James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

Second Lesson

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

(Congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

Gospel Acclamation



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

***Gospel**

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

Sermon

Sanitizer for the Heart

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

Abide with Me

ELW 629

Children's Event

Pastor Jennifer

***Apostle's Creed**

Inside back cover of ELW

***The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

