

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Sunday, October 4, 2020*  
*8:15 a.m. (in person) + 10:45 a.m. (in person and online)*

In the order of service, the words that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

**Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.**

For music, the words will be sung by the cantor **while the congregation hums.**

*Instructions for in-person worship.*

- ) Keep your mask on at all times.*
- ) Hum but do not sing the hymns.*
- ) Please keep a social distance of at least six feet from persons not in your same household.*
- ) Enjoy the presence of one another. As we “speak the peace,” wave, smile, make the sign of the Cross. Please do not embrace, hug, kiss, or elbow-bump anyone but for immediate family members you are seated with.*
- ) In using the restrooms, follow the capacity guidance posted outside the restroom doors. Practice safe hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water before leaving a restroom, and disinfecting your hands using a no-touch disinfectant dispenser located outside the restrooms.*
- ) Please do not attend worship if are currently sick with any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, nausea, or diarrhea.*
- ) Please do not attend worship if you had close personal contact with anyone who has been diagnosed or is awaiting test results for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.*
- ) Notify the Church Office if you receive a positive COVID-19 test result within 7 days of attending a worship service. Your name will be kept anonymous unless required for reporting to the Department of Health.*

Prelude

Welcome / Announcements

# Confession

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

# Opening Hymn • "God Is Here!"

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 526*



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer

4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure

change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the

help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts

ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.

we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, 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.**

# First Reading

A reading from Isaiah.

## Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.  
He 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 wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.  
What 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 wild grapes?

And 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.  
I will make it a waste; 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.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm

A responsive reading from the Psalms.

## Psalm 80:7-15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# Second Reading

A reading from Philippians.

## Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised 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; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More 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 and 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. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Acclamation

*Sundays and Seasons*

*The cantor sings the refrain, **while the congregation hums along.***

*The cantor sings the verse.*

*The cantor sings the refrain, **while the congregation hums along.***

Assembly

Cantor

Mm - m - m - m. Mm - m - m - m.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia.

## *Verse*

Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you  
to go and bear fruit that will last.

## ***Refrain.***

# Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 21:33-46

[Jesus said to the people:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They 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.”

Jesus 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’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Sermon

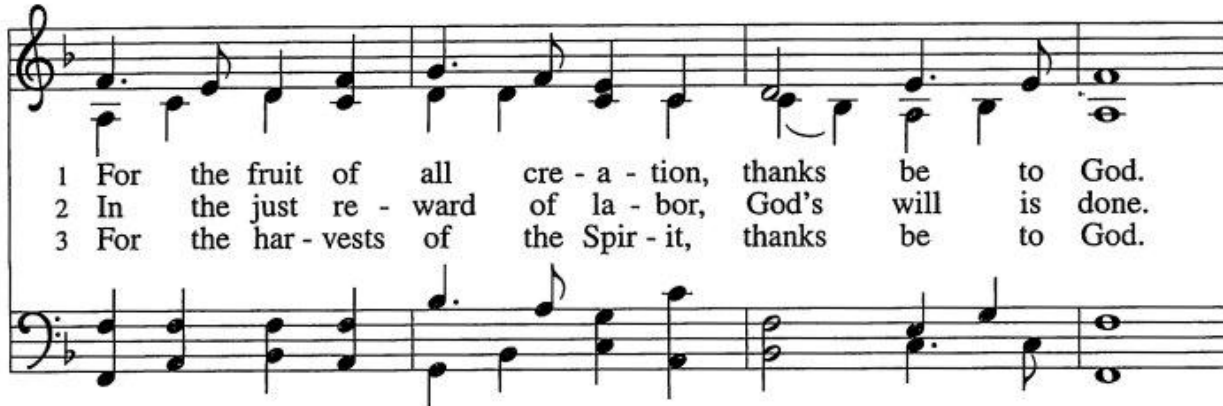
Rev. Briana R. Merkle.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*



# Hymn of the Day • "For the Fruit of All Creation"

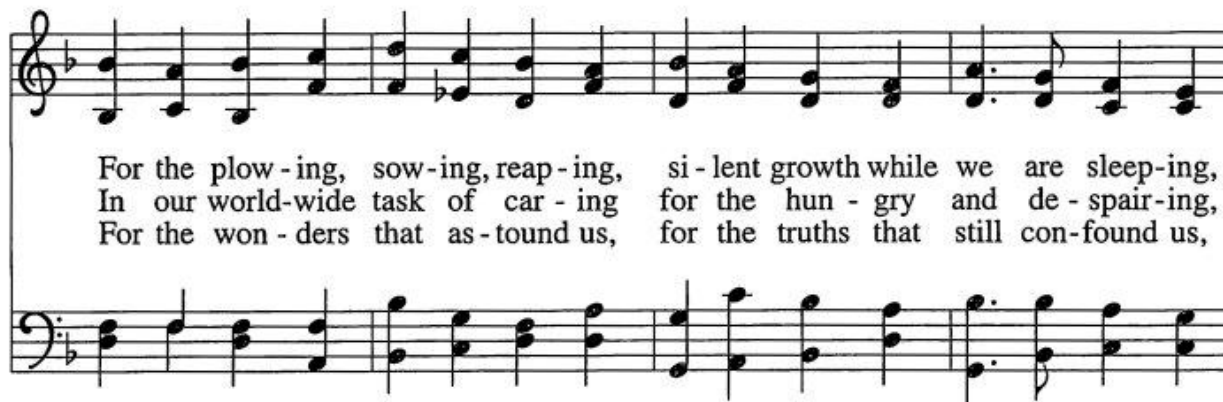
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 679*



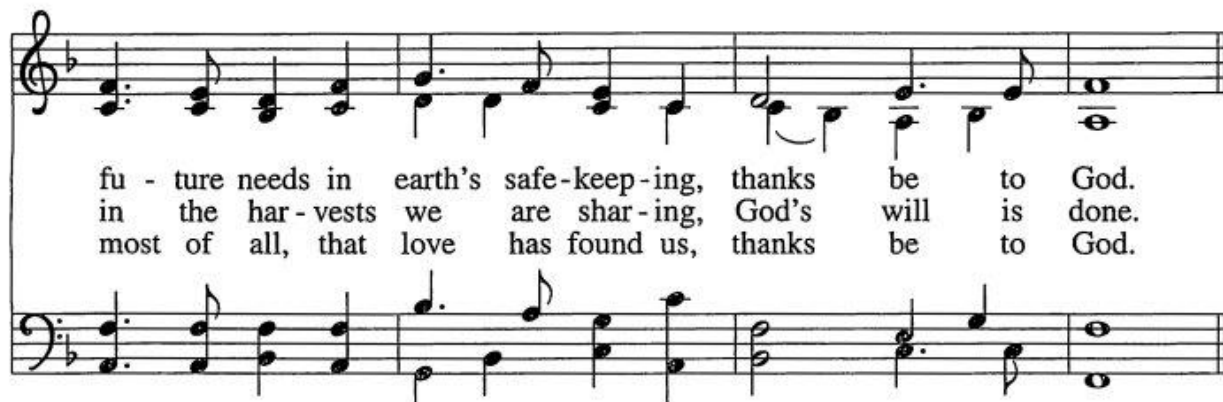
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

# Apostles' Creed

Together, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
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.**

# Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's grace and mercy,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

*At the conclusion of each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let us call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms  
all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,  
nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

## Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

With all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of  
heaven, we praise your holy name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**



# Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion  
We may know the unity we share with all your people  
In the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
All glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

# Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

# Communion Song • “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 184*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

# Communion Sending Prayer

Gracious God,  
from this table you sustain and nourish your people  
and unite us as one in Jesus Christ.  
We send forth this bread of life and cup of salvation  
to those who are not worshiping in-person,  
so that they too can feast on your goodness  
and be gathered with us in the one body, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Sending Hymn • “Called to Labor in God’s Vineyard”

OneLicense #89150



1. Called to la - bor in God’s vine - yard, Ea - ger to ac -  
2. Called to la - bor in God’s vine - yard, Not a - lone, but  
3. Called to la - bor in God’s vine - yard, Help us, Lord, in



cept the task, Us - ing ev - ’ry skill and tal - ent,  
joined as one, Shar - ing com - mon goals and val - ues,  
all we do. As the vines are heav - y - lad - en,



Do - ing all that God would ask, May we give our -  
Striv - ing till the task is done, May we work with  
Send more work - ers called by you. May our work bear



selves com - plete - ly To the work that is at hand,  
one an - oth - er In a just and hon - est way,  
fruit e - ter - nal And our fer - vor nev - er cease,



Of - fer - ing our will - ing serv - ice  
Wheth - er hired at dawn or sun - set,  
Till at last, the har - vest gath - ered,



As the stew - ards of the land.  
Not ex - pect - ing great - er pay.  
We may rest and know your peace.

# Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Postlude

*For those participating in worship from home,  
please register your worship attendance online at  
[www.mtviewlutheran.org/worshipattendance](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org/worshipattendance)*

*Please submit prayer requests online at  
[www.mtviewlutheran.org/prayerrequest](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org/prayerrequest)*

*Flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God  
by Ken and Sandi Swanson  
in honor of their grandson Xander's baptismal anniversary.*

# Offering

We give to the Lord of our tithes and offerings.

*You can leave your offering in the offering box at the back of the Sanctuary near the font, either upon entry to worship or as you depart.*

You can mail an offering to:  
Mountain View Lutheran Church  
3505 - 122nd Ave E  
Edgewood WA 98372

Ways that you can give electronically:

## TEXT

- )] Text “Give” to 253-292-9599.
- )] You will be sent a message to (a) text your giving amount and/or (b) set up recurring giving.

## ONLINE via the MVLC WEBSITE

- )] Visit [www.mtviewlutheran.org](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org).
- )] Hover over the “GIVE” dropbox.
- )] Choose “Make a Donation via Bank Account” or “Make a Donation via Credit/Debit Card.”
- )] Fill out all information on the page and then click the blue “GIVE” button.
- )] If you want it to remember your information, visit “SIGN IN” and create an account.
- )] NOTE: Online giving is a one-time gift unless you check “Make this Gift Recurring.”



# Worship Leaders

PREACHER/PRESIDER  
Pastor Briana R. Merkle

DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES  
Susan Bloomfield

## **8:15 a.m.**

HEAD USHER  
Mark Williams

USHERS  
Betsy Tunstall  
Julie Williams

GREETERS  
Pat Clement  
Genie Lennon

COMMUNION ASSISTANT  
Barb Edmonds

LECTOR  
Ken Edmonds

SOUND  
Beth Ann Johnson

## **10:45 a.m.**

HEAD USHER  
—

USHERS  
Mark Cantrell  
Joel DeWitt

GREETERS  
Sonja Dahl  
Mary Finney

COMMUNION ASSISTANT  
Terry Jensen

LECTOR  
Joel DeWitt

SOUND  
Megan Hutton

## Mountain View Lutheran Church

3505 - 122nd Ave E, Edgewood WA 98372  
253-863-5171 • [www.mtviewlutheran.org](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org)

# Worship Notes

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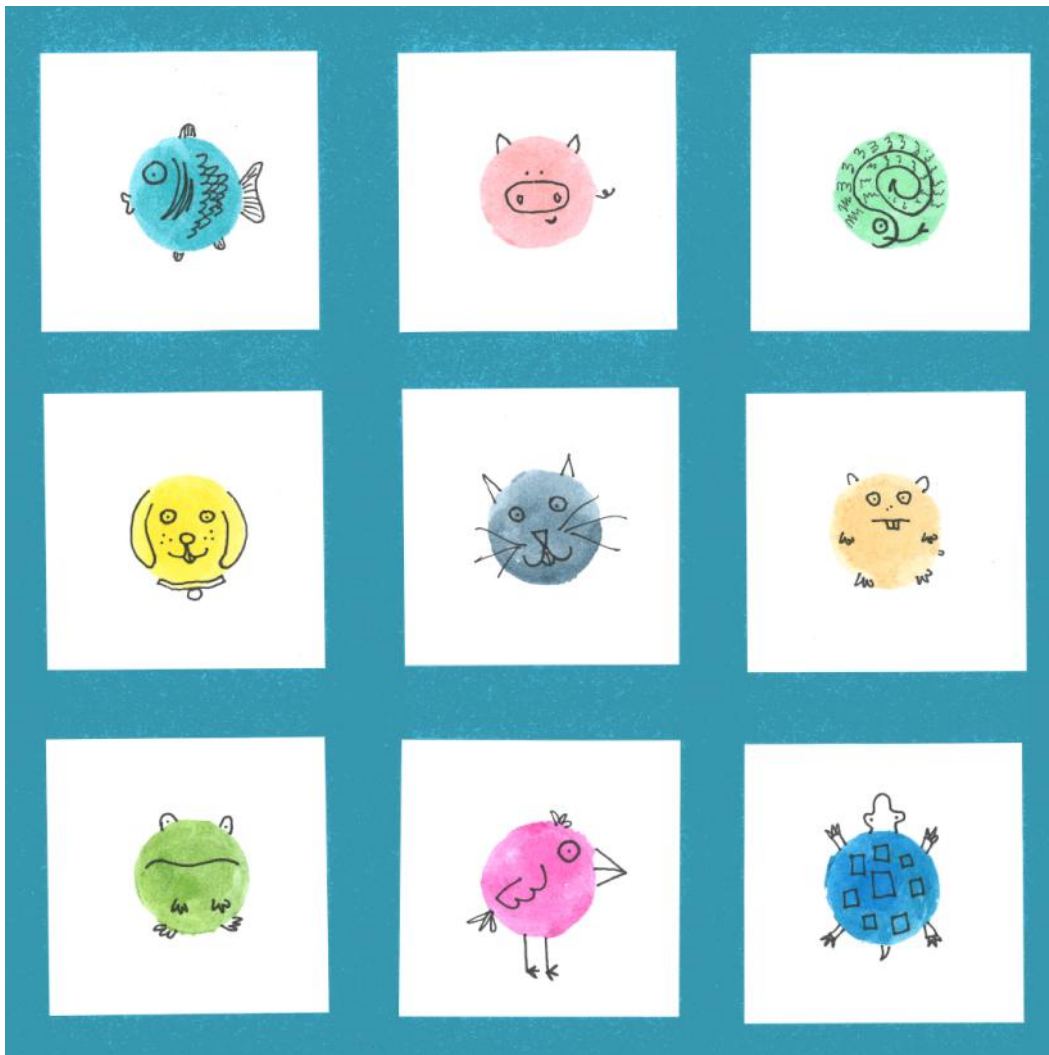
Dogs. Hamsters. Chickens. Cats. Birds. Lizards.  
What animals reside at your home?

**Bring them to a Blessing of the Animals!**  
**2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2020**  
**Back lawn of Mountain View Lutheran Church**

As we celebrate the Season of Creation, we remember God’s love for all of creation—including “living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind” (Gen 1:24). The Blessing of Animals is traditionally celebrated along with the Feast Day for Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis recognized all living creatures as brothers and sisters in God’s magnificent Kingdom. And so we offer a time to bless animals for their unique gifts, and bless our relationships to them.

What should I bring to the Blessing?

- ) A mask (for you to wear).
- ) A lawn chair for outdoor worship (since we need to be properly socially distanced).
- ) Your furry, scaly, and feathery friends (properly secured).





# the Freedom of a Christian

Wednesday Evening Adult Education for October/November

7:00 p.m. • Wednesday, October 7, 2020 • Zoom meeting

Pastors Bri, Mike, and Kim will be leading a **seven-week study series on *The Freedom of a Christian***, an essential treatise written by Martin Luther. The study has been offered to churches as part of the ELCA's celebration of the treatise's 500 year publication anniversary. It's one key part of Luther's major theological writings.

The treatise is available at online at [www.elca500.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Freedom-of-a-Christian\\_final-proof\\_3.17.20201.pdf](http://www.elca500.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Freedom-of-a-Christian_final-proof_3.17.20201.pdf)

(You will want to download the treatise ahead of time so that you can begin wrestling with this powerful teaching. The download includes the treatise as well as the letter Luther wrote to Pope Leo X in an attempt to explain and defend his theological perspective on the gospel of Jesus Christ.)

A key moment occurs in the treatise as Luther addresses this paradox:  
***The Christian person is a completely free lord of all, subject to none.***  
***The Christian person is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all.***

Luther says of his treatise on Christian freedom, that it contains a summary of the whole Christian life, if you understand its meaning. Please join us for an extended conversation on this essential writing.

Join the Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84766484362>

Meeting ID: 847 6648 4362