

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, E.L.C.A.

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17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

* Stand as you are able

GATHERING

Hymn*

ELW 443 (vs. 1-2) “Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”

The Baptism of Henry Fuller Kenitz (See Insert)

ELW 443 (vs. 3-5) “Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] 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. ² He 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. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then 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.

⁶ The 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. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When 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.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then 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. ¹¹ And 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?”

P: The Word of the Lord:

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 145:1-8

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.**

³ Great 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.**

⁵ I 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.**

⁷ They 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.**

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..

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

²⁷ Only, 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 ²⁸ and 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. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel Acclamation*(pg. 205 in your hymnal)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 20:1-16

C: Glory to you O Lord.

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. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’

So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And 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?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When 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.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, '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.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord: C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Enjoying Life"

Hymn of the Day *

ELW #595 "Jesus Loves Me"

Welcome to our WTKM radio and online worshipers, Good News and Prayer Petitions

Prayers of the Church

Response P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Sharing the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

(you are encouraged to turn to one another and share the peace of the Lord.)

Offering Hymn *

ELW # 685 (vs 1-4) "Take My Life, That I May Be"

Offering Prayer *

**God of creation, 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

Thanksgiving *

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Preface *

P: Lord, it is indeed right and our joy that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise to you. And so with the angels and archangels and with the church on earth and in heaven, we give glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, as we praise your name and join in the unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of
your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest (pg. 144 ELW)**

The Words of Institution*

The Lord's Prayer *

Invitation to Communion

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

Hymn

Page 146 of hymnal

Distribution

Communion Hymn

ELW # 502 "The King of Love My Shepard Is"

SENDING

Communion Blessing *

Prayer After Communion *

Sustaining God, 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.

Blessing*

Now may the God of Hope, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you strength and joy in all circumstances. **Amen**

Sending Hymn *

ELW #669 “Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

Dismissal *

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Redeemer Announcements

- Today's Lector is Tom Hostad, and our usher is Kurt and Wendy Hintz.
- Next week's Lector is Kurt Hintz and our usher is Don Horen
- Pastor will be **in the office on Thursday September 24th** from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Appointments are appreciated, but not necessary. If you wish to meet with Pastor at other times, please contact him directly. Looking ahead, he will be in the office **November 1st** from **9am-12pm**.
- Pastor will be holding "Conversations and Prayer" at Harthaven Apts, on Thursday **September 24th** at 1:30pm.
- The next Conversations with God will be meeting Thursday, **September 24th** at 10am. We will be discussing Acts 2:37-47.
- Our monthly Fish Fry group will be meeting on Friday, **October 2nd** at The Drinking Well.
- There will be an informational meeting immediately following service on Sunday, **October 11th** to discuss Redeemers property needs and upgrade opportunities.



Henry Fuller Kenitz, infant son of Steven and Alexandra Kenitz, will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this morning. Henry was born on May 6, 2026, and is lovingly welcomed by his proud siblings, Kyran, Reagan, and Finley.

Today we rejoice with Henry and his family as God gathers him into the family of faith through the waters of Holy Baptism. We give thanks for the precious gift of his life and for the grace of God that surrounds him from his earliest days.

As Henry begins his journey of faith, we too renew our promise to walk beside him — to pray for him, encourage him, teach him, and surround him with the love of Christ. May he grow in faith, hope, and love, always knowing that he is a beloved child of God.

May God richly bless Henry and his family, and may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen all of us as we journey together in faith.

Welcome, Henry, our newest brother in Christ.