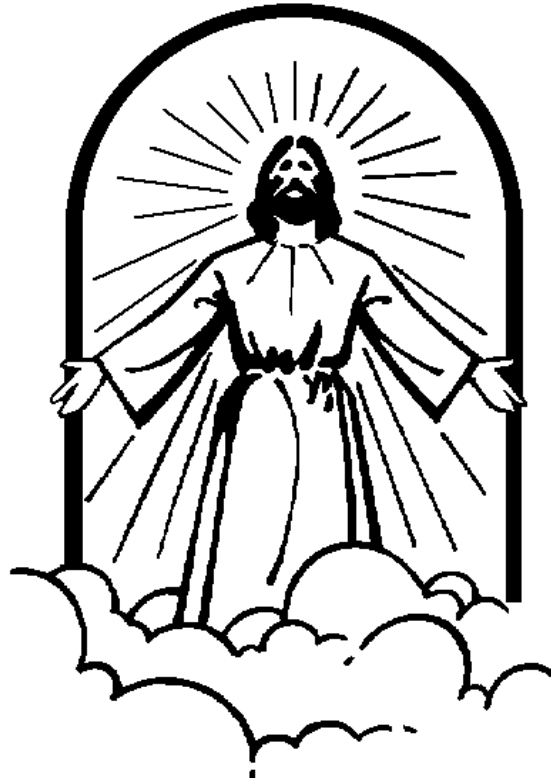


September 10, 2017



*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*

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Ascension Lutheran is a family of Christians intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His victory over death



## The 14th Sunday After Pentecost

*“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15a)*

**PRESERVICE MEDITATION:** Psalm 36 (page 132 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

**HYMN 744** (Worship Supplement) *“How Great Thou Art”*

Service Of Word And Sacrament, setting 2 (page 12, Worship Supplement)

**FIRST LESSON:** Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup> Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.” <sup>6</sup> So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup> Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery *serpent*, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

**PSALM OF THE DAY** (*responsively*) – from Psalm 115

**M:** Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory,

**C:** BECAUSE OF YOUR MERCY, BECAUSE OF YOUR TRUTH.

**M:** Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?”

**C:** BUT OUR GOD IS IN HEAVEN, HE DOES WHATEVER HE PLEASES.

**M:** Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands.

**C:** YOU WHO FEAR THE LORD, TRUST IN THE LORD. HE IS THEIR HELP AND THEIR SHIELD.

**M:** The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us.

**C:** HE WILL BLESS THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD, BOTH SMALL AND GREAT.

**M:** May you be blessed by the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

**C:** WE WILL BLESS THE LORD FROM THIS TIME FORTH AND FOREVERMORE. PRAISE THE LORD!

SECOND LESSON: Romans 7:14-25 *rise*

<sup>14</sup> For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. <sup>16</sup> If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is good*. <sup>17</sup> But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

The Apostles Creed (page 15, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 357 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Jesus, Thou Art Mine Forever”*

SERMON: Matthew 12:9-21

### **JESUS CAME TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS**

**<sup>9</sup> Now when [Jesus] had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. <sup>10</sup> And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” – that they might accuse Him. <sup>11</sup> Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift *it* out? <sup>12</sup> Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. <sup>13</sup> Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched *it* out, and it was restored as whole as the other. <sup>14</sup> Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him. <sup>15</sup> But when Jesus knew *it*, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. <sup>16</sup> Yet He warned them not to make Him known, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: <sup>18</sup> “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> He will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. <sup>20</sup> A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory; <sup>21</sup> and in His name Gentiles will trust.”**

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 779 (Worship Supplement) *“Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven”*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 778 (Worship Supplement) *“Grace Has A Thrilling Sound”*

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WELCOME, VISITORS! We’re very happy that you are here today! You are always welcome.

Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY our USHER is Tyler Louderman. After church we have SUNDAY SCHOOL and BIBLE STUDY. (We’re on Psalm 37:29.) Our North Aurora service is at 3:00 PM, and our Batavia Rehab Center service is at 4:00 PM.

TUESDAY – THURSDAY: Pastor Kesterson will be attending the GREAT LAKES PASTORAL CONFERENCE at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. (Peggy will also be in Eau Claire.)

THURSDAY: No North Aurora Care Center information class this Thursday.

FRIDAY: No North Aurora Care Center Bible Study this Friday.

SATURDAY: LUTHER MEMORIAL, Fond du Lac, WI, is dedicating their fully-remodeled church and school. There will be a lunch at 11:30 AM, and a service at 1:00 PM. There will be a cake reception and a presentation following the service. Tours will be given before and after the dedication service. (Pastor Kesterson and Peggy will be at the dedication.)

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Glen Libby. After Sunday School and Bible Class we have lunch, then our outside CHURCH WORK DAY. We’ll remove the plants by the church sign and trim and burn branches on the back of our property. Please bring hoses with nozzles, work gloves, clothes to work in, a chain saw, clippers and saws for trimming branches, wheel barrows, etc.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday’s offering was \$337.00 (needed each week: \$1,200.00); attendance was 12.

OCTOBER MEETINGS: CHURCH COUNCIL: 8th, VOTERS: 22nd.

CLC NEWS: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has called Pastor David Schaller of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dowagiac, MI, to serve as co-pastor. Kayla Wendt of Immanuel Lutheran Church has accepted the congregation’s call to serve part-time teaching choir, PE, and Spanish.

JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE: There will be a JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, at Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, WI, at 3:00 PM. The Kestersons are going, and will have room in their car for a few more passengers.