

BURR OAK – HESPER LUTHERAN PARISH

Pastor David Werges

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

8:30 am Burr Oak / 10 am Hesper

Office Phone: 563-735-5925 Website: www.bohlutheran.org Email: info@bohlutheran.org

Pastor Phone: 641-220-0205 Pr. Email: pastor@bohlutheran.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

ELW 717

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW 147

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

PAGE 149

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation. Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LISTEN

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.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

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.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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"Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

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

L: The holy gospel according to **Mark**, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON: "Read My Heart as Well as My Lips"

RESPOND

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"*

ELW 772

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead. 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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry to practices that seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

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Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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

PREFACE

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*Holy, holy, holy Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION SONG *"Let Us Break Bread Together"* ELW 471

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"* # 207

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ry one what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Shine, Jesus, Shine"* ELW 671

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. We are happy to have you here! Holy Communion will be served at worship this morning. Communion will be served in a continuous line. Ushers will direct communicants forward. Please let the usher know if you wish to receive communion in your seat. Gluten – free wafers and juice are available. Let the pastor and server know your preference. May God bless our time of worship and fellowship together!

Prayer Concerns

Jonathan Allen, Vi Hoffland, Ron Lippe, Stacy Nelson, Diane & Jason Daft, Gary Stortz, Joyce Kallevang, Trisha Ryan, Gwen Allen, Anthony McCabe, Kory Courtney, Allen Werges, Lorraine Peterson.

Praying for our members in Care Facilities

Pat Perkins, Pam Hansen, Corliss Peters, Dean Rasmussen
Dorothy Anderson, Ron Knutson, Lester Korsness, Marilyn Helland, Sonya Gorham, Vi Hoffland

Please pray for military personnel currently deployed and those below serving stateside, elsewhere or in the reserves:

Mason Falck, Cameron Korsness, Jordan Grecko, Parker Whalen, Dylan Foltz, Wesley Smith & Braden Peterson.

Please also pray for all other soldiers, sailors, airmen, coasties and marines who work to defend us.

Pr. Dave is available to bring communion, visit and offer spiritual care to those in need. Please contact Pr. Dave at 641-220-0205 or call the Parish Office at 563-735-5925 or email info@bohllutheran.org if you or someone you know would like a visit. Please call the Parish office if there is someone you would like included in Prayers or to update their status to help us maintain an accurate Prayer Concerns list.

TAKE HOME VERSE

**“You love righteousness and hate iniquity;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness
above your companions.”**

(Psalm 45:7)

Be Jesusy Gratitude Practice for September

Express appreciation to those who educate and work with youth, those who work in Public and private schools and those at church who nurture faith through Wednesday School and Confirmation Classes.

Steam Engine Days Ecumenical Worship

Featuring: *Jerusalem Road*

9:00 am September 8, 2024 on the Steam Engine Grounds

Come and join us for worship! No services at Burr Oak or Hesper

HAUGE LUTHERAN CHURCH – 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Worship: 9:30 am Dinner: 11 am – 12:30 pm Program: 1:00 pm

All are welcome!

BURR OAK LUTHERAN CHURCH BAZAAR & RAFFLE

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm



This is a special invitation to everyone to come and join us for a night full of fun and fellowship at our annual Bazaar! By now everyone should have received their Bazaar letter and tickets. However, if you have not received tickets and would like some, please contact any Bazaar Committee member listed below. For those bringing items

for the Bazaar, the church will be open Tuesday, September 10 from 5-7 p.m. and Wednesday, September 11 at 1:30 p.m. If you have items for the Bazaar and can't bring them, please call Darlene Emery, 563-382-5481 or Myrna Wilson, 563-419-1416. Your support is greatly appreciated! **Bazaar Committee:** *Darlene Emery, Myrna Wilson, Diane Lovstuen, Barb Barth, Leslie Cook, Michelle Barth, Denise Gjere, Wendy Carolan.*

Burr Oak Lutheran Church

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS September 1, 2024

Organist: Kathy Tollefsrud **Greeter(s):** Adam & Sheena Tollefson, Odin, Silas, Greta & Otto
Reader: Sheena Tollefson **Communion Assistant:** Tyler Tweten
Ushers: Scott Barth, Myrna Wilson, Ben & Kim Lange

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TODAY: Coffee Fellowship after worship

WED. Sept. 4: **Council meetings in Hesper:** 6 pm individual Council; 6:30 pm Joint Council
7pm – assist with tent set up for SE Days

SUN. Sept. 8: 9 am Ecumenical Worship at Steam Engine Grounds. No services in Burr Oak or Hesper

MON. Sept. 9: 11:30 am – EUNICE circle meets at Senior Center in Decorah. Connie Strom, BSL

WED. Sept. 11: 7 pm: Burr Oak WELCA Bazaar & Raffle

FRI. Sept. 13: 9:30 am – Bible Study at Highland Lutheran Church

SUN. Sept. 15: 8:30 am Worship/HC. Coffee Fellowship.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed to Meet Budget: \$1,630.00 Offering August 25: \$ 850.00

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS September 15, 2024

Organist: Kathy Tollefsrud **Greeter & Scripture Reader:** Doris Patterson
Communion Assistant: Myrna Wilson
Ushers: Tom & Leslie Cook, Randy McIntosh

Hesper Lutheran Church

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY – September 1, 2024

Organist: Kathy Tollefsrud **Greeter(s):** Todd & Janelle Halverson
Scripture Reader and Communion Assistant: Janelle Halverson
Ushers: Andy & Kally Thraenert, Dustin & Kayla Tollefsrud

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WED. Sept. 4: **Council meetings in Hesper:** 6 pm individual Council; 6:30 pm Joint Council
7pm – Tent set up for SE Days

SUN. Sept. 8: 9 am - Ecumenical Worship at Steam Engine Grounds.
No services in Burr Oak or Hesper

WED. Sept. 11: 7 pm: Burr Oak WELCA Bazaar & Raffle

FRI. Sept. 13: 9:30 am – Bible Study at Highland Lutheran Church

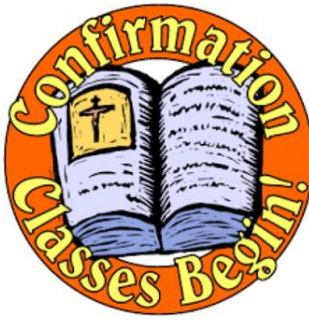
SUN. Sept. 15: 10 am Worship/HC.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed to Meet Budget: \$1,384.00 Offering August 25: \$ 625.00

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS September 15, 2024

Organist: Kathy Tollefsrud **Greeter & Scripture Reader:** Lori Phillips
Communion Assistant: Lori Phillips **Ushers:** Phil & Joyce Richert



Confirmation Families

INCOMING and SECOND YEARS

We are welcoming all up-and-coming 7th grade students to join us for this year's confirmation class. If you are starting 7th grade this year or you are at the age to start confirmation classes we would love to have you. All students starting 8th grade this year or who attended classes last year, we are excited to have you back in class. We can't wait to show you all what this year's confirmation classes have in store for each and every one of you! We plan on meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month for class, starting with a meal at 6:00 and class from 6:30-7:30pm.

Students that have completed 2 years of classes and other necessities: we would like to remind you of your projects and faith statements. The notebook (Living a Life of Faith Workbook) that you received at the beginning of the year has information to help guide you. We hope you have been able to keep up with it this summer as we all know how busy summer can get. Affirmation of Baptism will be Sunday, October 27, 2024. Before this date we will go over the service and get you fitted for your robes. We will be meeting the 2nd Wednesdays of the month for Youth Events.

**ALL CONFIRMATION AND WEDNESDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 18TH IN HESPER!**

**CALLING ALL 3 YEAR OLDS
& STUDENTS PRE-K TO 6th GRADE!**

**Our Wednesday School program will be starting for
the upcoming 24/25 year on September 18th in Hesper.**

This year will look a little different with Wednesday School being the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of every month now. The 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Wednesday will be normal class, but we are pleased to announce we will be adding to our schedule. On the 4th Wednesday we will now be hosting our monthly "Be Jesusy" event. There will no longer be a "Be Jesusy" event after 10 am Sunday worship. Congregation members are welcome to these wonderful events (if kids younger than 3 would like to attend we ask that a parent attend with them). We pride ourselves on how wonderful, educational and fun our program is! When we meet on Wednesday's there will be a meal at 6:00 for everyone to enjoy, and class and/or activities will be 6:30-7:30pm. We will be introducing all incoming 3-year-old students during worship on September 22nd. Please let us know via email if your 3 yr. old or 3rd grader will be attending worship on the 22nd and/or starting Wednesday school with us so we can get their bible and milestone pebble prepared for them.

We hope to have you and your families join us for these wonderful classes and activities!

Any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out via email @ secretary@bohlutheran.org

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION Sunday, September 22



Third Graders will receive their Bibles during worship in Burr Oak & Hesper September on 22nd. Please email Nan at the parish office (secretary@bohlutheran.org) or call the Office (569-735-5925) with the following information for Bible labels by **Wednesday, September 11th**.

Child's Name Parent's Names Grandparents names Sponsors

Family and friends of students entering Wednesday School and receiving Bibles are welcome to come and join us in celebrating these special milestones in the faith life of our youth!

Youth Group

Luther League for Parish Youth in 7th – 12th grades will begin meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Meetings will take place in various locations depending on the activity. The first gathering will be on Wednesday, October 9th at Mables in Decorah from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Hope you can join us!

LAURA INGALLS WILDER MUSEUM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS



Can you help? The Laura Ingalls Museum is seeking out some volunteers to help with cleaning up and removing stuff from the Burr Oak Mercantile so that we can begin renovation. Our goal is to have the main floor renovated and ready by opening day next year of May 1, 2025. What things we can do as volunteers will help defray the cost for us from hiring it to be done. We are currently seeking and always appreciative of ALL DONATIONS that are given to the museum for our projects. We are planning our initial cleanup day Saturday, September 21, 2024 starting at 8:00 am. Please consider joining us and helping with the removal of things. More hands helping makes lighter work for others. Contact Leslie Cook 563-379-4211 if you are interested in helping. Thank you! Laura Ingalls board.

"Be Jesusy" ACTIVITY FOR SEPTEMBER SCHOOL KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

On Wednesday, September 25th we will be making School Kits for Lutheran World Relief at Wednesday School. We are asking for donations to make the kits. Donations may be brought to Burr Oak or Hesper anytime.



Items Needed:

- Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks
- 16 or 24 pack of Crayons
- Unsharpened Pencils
- Blue or Black Ink Pens
- Block Erasers
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Scissors (Blunt end)
- Rulers (12")

WINNESHIEK COUNTY FAIR FUNDRAISER September 8th

The Winneshiek County Fair Board is having its annual fundraiser "Pancakes on the Patio" Sunday September 8th from 8 am til 12 noon. The meal will consist of pancakes, scrambled eggs, breakfast sausage, cheese curds, milk, orange juice and coffee. It is freewill offering and carry outs will be available. All proceeds go to fairground improvements, such as youth livestock facilities and the grandstand.