

BURR OAK – HESPER LUTHERAN PARISH

Pastor David Werges

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

8:30am JOINT worship at 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, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Built on a Rock"

ELW 652

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

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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

“Glory to God”

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P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN verse 1

“Amazing Grace”

ELW 779

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM GABRIEL DAHL (insert)

BAPTISMAL HYMN verse 2-4

“Amazing Grace”

ELW 779

LISTEN

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

3 When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

5 They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

6 The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

8 You will make good your purpose for me;

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to **Matthew**, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon "Who is He?"

RESPONSE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Church's One Foundation"

ELW 654

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone.

Hear our prayers for all in need this day. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of these congregations and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

BLESSING OF BACK PACKS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL FACULTY

RECOGNITION OF EWALU CAMPERS & STAFF

OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Prayer Concerns

Jonathan Allen, Stacy Nelson, Diane & Jason Daft, Trisha Ryan, Gwen Allen,
Kory Courtney, Lorraine Peterson, Kirsten Dejarlais Snell, Diane Eiken, Marcia Fawcett, Steve Headington,
Brooke Tweten, Juanita DeLong, Barb Halverson, Logan McCabe.

Praying for our members in Care Facilities

Pat Perkins, Dean Rasmussen, Dorothy Anderson, Ron Knutson, Marilyn Helland,
Vi Hoffland, Mark Folstad, Don Keefe, Marilyn Newhouse, Harold Stoen.

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.

"BE JESUSY" GRATITUDE PRACTICE FOR AUGUST

Give the gift of life and be a blood donor. Watch for a blood drive scheduled in your area.

Upcoming Summer Worship Schedule

Aug 30th: 8:30am Joint @ Hesper

Sept 6th: 8:30am Burr Oak w/ Holy communion Fellowship;

10am Hesper w/ Holy communion

Sept 13th: 9:00 am Hesper-Mabel Steam Engine Days Ecumenical Worship.

Sept 20th: 8:30am JOINT @ Burr Oak Fellowship & Kick off Carnival

(acknowledging new confirmation students, 3rd Graders Receiving Bibles & 3yr old enter Wednesday School)

10:00 am Shared Ministry Community Outdoor Worship and Potluck at Big Canoe

Sept 27th: 8:30am Burr Oak Fellowship; 10am Hesper

Noisy Offering will be collected during worship this morning. Sharing your loose coins will help stock the shelves at the Decorah and Mabel Area food pantries and provide meal assistance for those in our area struggling with food insecurity.

Mabel Area Council of Churches - School Supplies fundraiser Help us raise enough funds to provide FREE school supplies to ALL the Mabel-Canton students.

You can mail any cash/check donations to the following address.

Mail to: Area Council of Churches (ACC)

c/o Myrna Wilson

225 South Robert St.

Mabel, MN 55954

Thank you for your support, ACC

Side-by-Side Ride and Sweet Corn Boil: TODAY

(Rain Date Sunday, August 30th)

Highland Lutheran Church

3824 Highlandville Road; Decorah

11:15 am – Registration and Meal 12:00 noon – Ride begins (Ends at Highland Church)

\$10 for the meal: Brat, Sweet Corn, Dessert & Beverage

Ride Registration Fee is \$10. PreRegistration is encouraged by visiting the church website at bchlutheran.org. Click on the News & Events Tab, - then Upcoming Events.

NOTE: There is a road closure due to a bridge replacement. Use the Locust Road (or other road) to get to 380th St. Travel 380th St. until you reach the stop sign then turn left and continue ½ mile to the church. You are invited to come for just the ride, meal, or both. All are welcome!

Bazaar will be held on September 16 at 7pm. Items can be dropped off Tuesday, September 15th from 5-7 and Wednesday, the day of the bazaar anytime after 2pm. More raffle tickets can be gotten from any Bazaar Committee Member.

The Area Council of Churches invite the public to attend the ecumenical worship service that will be held on Sunday morning, Sept 13th, at 9am, on the Hesper Mable Steam Engine Days grounds as a part of the 74th Annual Hesper Mabel Steam Engine Days Celebration. Driftless Revival and area clergy will be providing the service. A Free will offering will be collected that will later be distributed evenly between the Mabel Area Food Shelf and the Decorah Area Food Pantry. All Are welcome!

Dear 3yr olds entering Wednesday School, 3rd grader and incoming confirmation students, We extend a special invitation to you to attend joint worship on Sunday, September 20th at 8:30am in Burr Oak. We will be acknowledging all **3yr olds entering Wednesday School, 3rd graders, along with incoming confirmation students.** We encourage grandparents, sponsors, mentors to all join us as well. Following worship there will be fellowship and a Kick off Carnival where you can pre-register your kid(s) for Wednesday School and Confirmation. We hope you are able to join us.

In September 20ths bulletin we will have all kids names listed that are **joining Wednesday School and Confirmation this year along with all 3rd graders.** If you could please let Nan know by email or mail by September 4th the following information that would be greatly appreciated.

Child's full name:

Parent's Names:

Grandparents:

Sponsors:

Burr Oak & Hesper Members: NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY

The joint councils have decided to do a New Picture Directory on our own. There are drop clothes installed at both churches if you choose to take your photo there. Please submit a family/individual photo of yourself using these backdrops or on your own. As you take them, submit to Nan, church secretary, who will be keeping them until we start compiling the Directory. **If you do not have a photo to submit, please still turn in your forms so we can get our membership database updated. Deadline to get your information in is October 15th, 2026!** You can find the forms in your monthly newsletter or ask Nan, and she can get you a copy.

As you may also know we installed a new software program to keep vital information on our membership list for each church. The new software will be an asset to the overall record keeping for the church. However, the old software program was not up to date, nor did it have complete records, so Nan is creating and updating the information manually. We are requesting **ALL CHURCH MEMBERS** provide the following information to update our records.

Anyone interested in getting professional photos taken for the directory, please reach out to Nichole Hotvedt at 563-419-1524, she will be running a special NOW UNTIL AUGUST for all members.

**Please list all the names in your household including birthdays, *(Please don't include pets)*
for Children, please list their age(s) & birthday date(s) & Grade in school**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Ages/birthdays of children at home will be used for Wednesday school, 1st communion classes, confirmation, graduation, etc. list.

Mailing Address _____

Adult Phone numbers _____

Adult Email address(es) _____

How do you want newsletters received Email OR Mail?

Adult children name(s) _____

Mailing Address(es) _____

Phone number(s) _____

Email address(es) _____

How do they want newsletters received Email OR Mail?

The information on your adult children is helpful as well in completing our church records. Many have gone on in their lives and not provided the office with updated information.

The information collected above will make our membership more accurate and help future committee(s) with contact information. Any questions, please be sure to reach out to a joint council member.

On behalf of the joint councils, **THANK YOU** for taking the time to provide the information.

Burr Oak Lutheran Church

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – August 2026

8:30am Joint Worship @ Hesper all of August

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TODAY: Blessing of backpacks & recognition of EWALU Students

Noisy Offering collection For Mabel and Decorah area Food Pantries

Side-by-Side Ride and Sweet Corn Boil, Highland Lutheran Church

TUES, August 25th: 9:00 am Shared Ministry Meeting at Highland Lutheran Church

SUN, Aug 30th: 8:30am Joint worship @ Hesper, Scarlett White's baptism

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed to Meet Budget: \$3,300.00 Offering Aug 16th: \$

Hesper Lutheran Church

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – August 23, 2026

Organist: Rose Breitsprecher

Greeter(s): Janelle Halverson

Reader: Janelle Halverson

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TODAY: Blessing of backpacks & recognition of EWALU Students

Noisy Offering collection For Mabel and Decorah area Food Pantries

Side-by-Side Ride and Sweet Corn Boil, Highland Lutheran Church

TUES, August 25th: 9:00 am Shared Ministry Meeting at Highland Lutheran Church

SUN, Aug 30th: 8:30am Joint worship @ Hesper, Scarlett White's baptism

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed to Meet Budget: \$2,372.00 Offering Aug 16th: \$545.00

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – August 30, 2026

Organist: Kathy Tollefsrud

Greeter(s): Linda Folstad

Reader: Linda Folstad

TAKE HOME VERSE

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

(Psalm 124:8)