

SUNDAY- SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025 -9:00 AM

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love
with all people.*

WELCOMING WORD

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.



WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

MINISTERS
INTERIM PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
KAREN HOFSTAD



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 14, 2025 | 14th Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 AM
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / C = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

*You are encouraged to use the time during the Prelude
for quiet reflection and preparing for worship.*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #807 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

+CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: 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.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Most merciful God,

C: We are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GREETING

+KYRIE pg. 138

+HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 139 *"Glory to God in the Highest..."*

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS

*Great is the Lord
The Heart of Worship*

FIRST READING Exodus 32:7-14

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation." ¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

SECOND READING 1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

+L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 15

+C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

+C: Praise to you, O Christ

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *Awake, My Soul*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

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+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #608 *Softly and Tenderly*

+APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE PEACE

+THE PRAYERS (pg. 143)

BENEVOLENCE

OFFERING Praise Team Song – *My Hope is in You*

+OFFERTORY #186 "*Create in me....*"

+THE LORD'S PRAYER (pg. 145) (right hand column)

COMMUNITY WORD

+BLESSING

L: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #779 *Amazing Grace*

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**"I am God's child, deserving of love and respect,
and God will use me to change the world."**

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

SHARE: What was a high point and low point of your day?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 73, Plea for relief and understanding

Tuesday, Jonah 3:1-10, Conversion of Ninevah

Wednesday, John 3:1-17, Nicodemus' Visit

Thursday, Psalm 113, God the Helper of the Needy

Friday, Romans 8:31-39, God's Love in Christ Jesus

Saturday, Mark 12:41-44, The Widow's Offering

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

"Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

-- Luke 15:7

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

- For what in your life right now do you need some strong reassurance of God's forgiveness and mercy? (Exod 32:7)
- Knowing God has been loving and forgiving with you, who do you feel the Spirit is nudging you to love and forgive in the same way? (Psa 51:1)
- What was the most wise and inspiring advice you received while preparing to be a leader in the church? (1 Tim 1:12)
- Who or what group of people do you personally find difficult to not judge or to reach out to and serve? (Luke 15:1)

PRAY: O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESS: The God of peace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. Amen.

If you would like more information about ELC of Mount Horeb please fill out the visitor cards in the pew pads which are passed during offering.

