

**SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2025-5:00 PM**



**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

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

**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



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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Saturday, September 6th, 2025 | | 13th Sunday After Pentecost | 9:00 AM  
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

**PRELUDE** Ruth Heinecke

## WELCOMING WORD

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**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: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: 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: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C: Amen.**

**+HYMN #705** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

## GREETING

L: 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

<sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and

you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

## **SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ.

<sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. <sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer

as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 14.

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

**+GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33**

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE** Pastor Karen Hofstad

**+HYMN #710** *Let Streams of Living Justice*

**+NICENE CREED** pg. 104

**+THE PRAYERS** pg. 143

**(As the leader concludes each petition with the words:**

**“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: Hear our prayer.”)**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY #186** - *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**

L: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF THE QUILTS & LWR KITS (Insert)**

### **MEAL**

#### **+Words of Institution**

**+The Lord's Prayer** pg. 145 (right hand column)

#### **Distribution of Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

L: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

### **SENDING**

## **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.**

**+HYMN #723** *Canticle of the Turning*

#### **+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."**

*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.*

## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

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

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, Psalm 101, A Pledge of Integrity

Tuesday, 1 Timothy 4:6-16, A Good Minister for Christ

Wednesday, Luke 18:18-30, The Rich Ruler

Thursday, Psalm 51:1-10, Praying for Pardon

Friday, Genesis 7:6-10, 8:1-5, Noah's Ark

Saturday, Genesis 8:20 - 9:7, God's Promise to Noah

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas:

***"Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me  
cannot be my disciple." -- Luke 14:27***

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

- If today's political climate caused a rift in your life, who needs a word of peace from you? (Luke 14:32)
- What does it mean to love, obey and hold fast to God? Who has modeled that sort of faith for you? (Deut 30:20)
- What's one thing you can do today to keep you from sitting "in the seat of the scoffers"? (Psalm 1:1)

**PRAY** Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through 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.