



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time after Pentecost – September 25, 2022

+ Service of Word & Prayer + 10:30 am

"Blessing of Pets"

Rev. Herbert C. Dolich, Pastor

One Pastor, Many Ministers

Lenna Harris- Music Director/Organist

Terry Cressman – Assisting Minister

"The moral progress of a nation and its greatness should be judged by the way it treats its animals." (Gandhi)

+ GATHERING +

Welcome & Announcements *(see the last page for additional, important announcements)*

Prelude **"For the Beauty of the Earth"** C. Kocher / S. Pethel

Please Stand

Call to Worship

'but ask the animals, and they will teach you;
The birds of the air, and they will tell you;
...and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
In His hand is the life of every living thing...' (Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a)

Silence

Reading as the Introit

Reader 'God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So, God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind, and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind, cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind." And God blessed them.

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good.' (Genesis 1)

Opening Prayer

P Come, let us gather together.

C Let us join the gathering: we bring fins and feathers.

P Come, all is ready for all of creation.

C Let us join the gathering: we bring scales and fur.

P Come, let us praise our Creator.

C We are loved: we bring skin.

P Come, with fins, feathers, scales, fur and skin.

P As we gather, we are mindful that, as part of God's creation, we wish the best for one another. Within that faith community we express this in prayer, and through blessing. Let us share God's peace:

P Peace be with you!

C And also with you.

(Passing of the peace, extending to the animals as well)

P "All creatures of our God and King

C Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice"

Please stand

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Prayers of Adoration, Thanksgiving and Confession

A Creator God,
You have made a beautiful world filled with wonder and surprises!

C We adore You.

A Creator God,
who has gifted us with the blessing of animals, those in the wild, those on farms, those in our own homes.

C We adore You.

A Creator God,
You brought into being that which we could not imagine for ourselves, life we cannot see without the aid of microscopes, animals we can only see in pictures from remote regions of this planet earth.

C We adore You.

A We thank You for abundant life;
for the birds we hear in the morning,
for the drone of the bees when we are outside,
for the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven.

C We give You thanks.

A We thank You for the gift of our own animal companions;
for the joy they bring us,
for the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about You;
for the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser,
for the benefits they are to our health, and to our Spirit.

C We give You thanks.

A And yet, we know that we have not always been faithful caretakers of our animals.
Forgive us when we have dirtied their environment, erased places of shelter, polluted the waters, killed off their food supplies or neglected to feed or tend animals in our own communities.
Forgive us when we have neglected our own animal companions.
When we have said we are too busy to play with them,
when we have shooed them away.
When we have made excuses, saying we are too tired ... too busy ... more important engagements have come up ... so that we do not walk them, cuddle them, spend time with them.

C Forgive us.

Forgive us when we have not loved them as they have loved us.

A Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture; when we have neglected the animals in the wild, the cruelty inflicted in the name of 'sport', or in the name of food production.

Forgive us when we have focused only on our 'favorites' and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful, those who hold a lower public profile.

Each year more animals are becoming extinct or are added to the endangered species list: forgive us, for allowing beauty to be forever destroyed.

C Forgive us when we neglect to see all animals as part of Your creation, forgive us when we neglect to acknowledge that Your love beats in all hearts, and that You give breath to all creation.

A God is love.
Through Christ your sins are forgiven,
take hold of this forgiveness,
and live your life, knowing that you are forgiven, and deeply loved.
Know that the Holy Spirit will enable you to live fully, richly, and deeply.

C Amen.

Please be seated

+ **WORD** +

First Reading – Psalm 104:24-25, 27-28, 30-31

L "O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.
These all look to you
to give them their food in due season'
when you open your hand,
they are filled with good things.
When you send forth your Spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.
May the glory of the Lord endure forever".

L This is the word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Matthew 6:25-26

L 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Reflection before the Sermon - Meister Eckhart, a 13th century Christian mystic

'Apprehend God in all things,
for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God,
and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spend enough time with the tiniest creature-even a caterpillar-
I would never have to prepare a sermon.
So full of God is every creature.'

Sermon / Reflection

Please stand



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Apostles Creed

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C Pray in the Holy Spirit.

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Responding to God's Faithfulness with Giving

Offertory

"The Swallow"

F. Bugmueller

Please stand

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray. God, our Creator,

C You open wide Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless You for Your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A Loving God,

We bring to you the prayers of the people.

Today we offer up prayers for those involved in animal welfare and conservation work:

For the ASPCA, for Earth Watch, World Wildlife Fund, our local animal shelters.

We pray for those who are working at policy and project levels, and for those tending to the needs of animals.

We pray for farmers – that the animals in their care are treated with dignity and respect.

We pray for the strays on our streets; help us not to turn away, but to bring them to a place of safety, where they can be fed, given medical treatment, and the chance to find a loving home.

Help us to be generous: with money, time, and the offer of hospitality within our homes.

We pray for veterinarians and their practices: enable your wisdom and compassion to be evident wherever there are sick or dying animals.

Enable the animals to sense your presence.

Comfort grieving owners: allow the many warm memories to break the frost of grief.

P Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven...

Amen.

Blessing of animals

(The pastor will call owners and pets forward, say the name of the animal, place his hand on the animal's head – if appropriate - and then bless the animal).

P [Name of animal], you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together and continue to be a blessing to each other.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Remembrance of those animal companions who have died

P We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically. We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways they enriched and blessed our lives.

We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

Dismissal/Blessing

P God our Creator,

**C help us to love all creatures as kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all minute beings as expressions of Your mysterious design,
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.**

(Norman Habel)

P Go out into the world, love one another.

Cherish your animal family,

Protest against abuse and neglect of our animals;

exercise stewardship of ALL creation, so that ALL can experience God's Shalom.

Go into the world, my horizontal and vertical brothers and sisters in Christ.

In the name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Sending Hymn

"All God's Critters"

B. Staines / K. Nelson

Refrain: *All God's Critters got a place in the choir _____
Some sing low, and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got.*

Verse 1: *Listen to the BASS, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks, and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And the old cow just goes "MOOOO"*

Verse 2: *The dog and the cat they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums, and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays, and the pony neighs
And the old coyote "HOWLS"* **Refrain**

Verse 3: *Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melodies with the high notes ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything,
and the jay-bird disagrees*

Verse 4: *Singin' in the nighttime, singin' in the day,
The little duck quacks, then he's on his way
The possum ain't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself* **Refrain**

Verse 5: *It's a simple song of livin' sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and grizzly bear,
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtledove.....So.....* **Refrain**

Extinguishing of candles

Dismissal

A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "All Creatures of Our God and King" arr. by S. Pethel

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Welcome to All Visitors who worship with us during this season of God’s Spirit. May God’s Spirit dwell in you and strengthen you on your journey. We invite you to sign our Guest Register and introduce yourselves to the pastor after worship.

Flowers are given to the Glory of God in Honor of the 1st Wedding Anniversary of Matt and Kama Mengel.

Bulletins are given to the Glory of God.

~Please keep the following people in your daily prayers~

Rosie Lichner, Rhonda (Millheim) Fries, Bernadette Roeder (Anna Herb’s sister), Linda Spangler, Jack Weasner, Patty Hager, Cathy Clark, Garry Dorney and Shelby Knox (friend of Charlet Baboski).

Please, take a few minutes to read through the prayer list and let Pastor or Diane in the office know if any names should be added or removed.

This Week at Hope

Today - 09/25 -

Time after Pentecost – 16
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study– 9:00 AM
Service of Word and Prayer - 10:30 AM
Blessing of Pets - Pavilion

09/26 – Monday -

Al-A-Non group 11:00 AM - Social Hall

09/27 - Tuesday -

AA 8:00 PM Social Hall

09/28 – Wednesday-

Sr. Choir - 7:00 PM

09/29 – Thursday -

AA 10:00 AM – Social Hall

09/30 – Friday -

AA Tatamy Women’s Group 6:30 PM

10/01 – Saturday -

AA, Al-A-Non 7:30 PM

10/02 – Sunday -

Time after Pentecost – 17
Sunday School & Bible Study – 9:00 AM
Service of Holy Communion - 10:30 AM
Reception of New Members – Donut Sunday
Planning Committee

Birthdays this week

09/25 – Paighton Wagner

Anniversaries this week

09/25 – Matt & Kama Mengel

09/29 – Eric & Tina Krug

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **October 2<sup>nd</sup>** – we will be receiving **new members**. If you are a visitor and interested in joining our Hope Lutheran Church family, please see Pastor after the service.

- Hope Lutheran Church's **WELCA** will be collecting **175 each of Soap and Washcloths** for the Easton / Bethlehem Mission District Christmas Ingathering. The following will benefit from their efforts – New Bethany Ministries, Safe Harbor Shelter, Hellertown Food Bank, Bright Hope, Turning Point, Victory House, and ProJeCt. Please place items in the box by the front door **by November 27<sup>th</sup>**.

Also appreciated would be donations of **new or slightly used** towels, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, caps, gloves, mittens, scarves, baby clothes, toys, puzzles, and playing cards. A few organizations have also expressed a need for cleaning supplies, socks, and sweatshirts.

- We need volunteers to sign up for **Safe Harbor in Easton** – pick up food donations at Wegman's on the first Saturday of each month and deliver to Safe Harbor. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board – for more information, see Bill Kiefer. October and November dates are open.
- We are still collecting non-perishable food items for the **Nazareth Area Food Bank**. Items can be placed in the bin under the coat rack in the Narthex. A list of needed non-perishables is listed above the box.
- A **"Congregational Challenge"** – The Evangelism Committee has come up with a challenge for every church member – ask a non-member friend, family member, or a neighbor to come to church with you. Each member who brings a (non-member) visitor, will be eligible to a quarterly drawing in our **"Each One – Reach One"**. Place your name and the visitor's name in the fishbowl located on the table in the Narthex. Prizes will be gift certificates for Giant Food Store. Each One – Reach One slips are located by the fishbowl. For more information, see Brenda Knowles.



## ***"Hope -- An Anchor for the Soul"***

**Hebrews 6:19**

**September 25, 2022**

**LECTIONARY 26**

**Optical Illusions**

Have you ever seen one of those pictures that changes depending on how you look at it? Is it a rabbit or a duck? Is it a vase or two faces looking at one another? A young woman or an old one? Sometimes our first impression of something gets in the way of us seeing it another way.

In the parable Jesus tells today, there is a man with wealth and influence who has always seen his life as a success. That success seems all the more pronounced in contrast to a poor, sick beggar who is always hanging around the entrance to his house. But when the rich man dies, he realizes that his life was actually the opposite of what he thought. It was not his possessions or status that mattered; it was the justice and love he showed to others. When it came to those things, he was far more impoverished and much sicker than the man he looked down on every day.

When we look at our own lives, it can be easy to get stuck in just one way of seeing them. If we focus on worldly standards, we may judge ourselves as successes or failures in ways that are out of touch with how God sees us. With this parable, Jesus calls us to new ways of looking at ourselves. Where are we missing the opportunities right outside our front door to act with love and justice for our siblings near and far?

In Christian worship, we gather to practice the way our lives and our world appear to God. We lift up the cries that have gone unheard. We look at one another and ourselves through the redemptive waters of baptism. We feed one another around the table that Christ sets for us all in our common need. As witnesses to God's truth, we send one another forth to shatter misguided illusions in the world around us.