



# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We Welcome you to Worship!*

**August 17, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

The People of Covenant are called to:

**Gather, Grow and Go Serve**

...With God's Love!

# Welcome

**Thank you for joining us for Worship today!**

**WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, August 17, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.**

*Congregation participation in **bold** in bulletin*

*ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship 'red' Hymn Book, Setting 8*

*ACS=All Creation Sings 'purple' Hymnal*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Land Acknowledgment**

Covenant Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral homelands on which we gather. We stand on stolen ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and the many other Indigenous Nations that have been historical occupants here. We respect Native Americans as caretakers of this land and Mother Earth. We strive to emulate the stewardship they first demonstrated. We embrace Indigenous People in love and gratitude. May we always seek a greater understanding of the Native community and their history as a whole as we aspire to work in meaningful partnership.

### **Welcome**

#### **Call to Worship**

Sing to the Lord a new song!

**We sing a song of peace and hope!**

Sing to the Lord a song of strength.

**Our strength is in the Lord of hosts!**

Sing to the Lord a song of joy!

**Our song is a song of service and faithfulness. Amen.**

### **Children's Time**

**Gathering Hymn**

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

ELW 876

## Greeting

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

## Kyrie

p. 184

## Prayer of the Day

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## First Reading

**Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*A reading from Jeremiah, the twenty third chapter.*

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music** *The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)* by Cathy Moglebust

## Psalm 82

*A reading from eighty two.*

<sup>1</sup>God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

**<sup>2</sup>"How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked?"**

<sup>3</sup>Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

**<sup>4</sup>Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."**

<sup>5</sup>They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in  
darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**<sup>6</sup>I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;**

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince."

**<sup>8</sup>Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!**

## **Second Reading**

**Hebrews 11:29—12:2**

*A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

<sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.

<sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not

worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. <sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

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## **Gospel**

**Luke 12:49-56**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twelfth chapter.*

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>49</sup> “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” <sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”  
The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Pastor Wendy Moen

## **Hymn of the Day**

*When Pain of the World Surrounds Us*

ELW 704

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence.*

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound especially (See Prayer Insert) < full 5 second pause >. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

## Exchange of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of peace safely with one another.*

## Announcements

### Offering Prayer

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Liturgy of Holy Communion

#### Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### Holy Holy Holy

p. 190

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

## **Invitation to Communion**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

## **Communion Hymns**

<i>Lamb of God</i>	p. 191
<i>Come, Let Us Eat</i>	ELW 491
<i>The Rice of Life</i>	ACS 965

## **Post Communion Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light*

ELW 815

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?*

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Or visit [www.covluth.org](http://www.covluth.org) and click 'On-line Giving'!

*(Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.)*



## Announcements:

- ✝ Thank you for being at Worship! More events and Worship opportunities at [Covluth.org](http://Covluth.org)
- ✝ **Hospitality NEEDS our help!** The Team is looking for those interested in serving this way
- ✝ **Join Bible Study meeting** at 530pm Wednesday Evenings **Aug 20** in the Gateway room
- ✝ **The office will be closed in honor of Labor Day Sept 1-** Love to you this holiday and always!
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch- 1<sup>st</sup> Wed at 11:30am- Sept 3** for location info contact Ann Nelson or the office
- ✝ **Sept 7- God's Work Our Hands, Rally Day and Blessing of the Quilts- Let's Work Together!**
- ✝ **Covenant Book Group- Sept 11 at 1pm-** for information email [bookgroup@covluth.org](mailto:bookgroup@covluth.org)
- ✝ **Feeding the Hungry- 2nd Fri of the month- Sept 12 10:30a-1:30p** at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meets Monday **Sept 15 at 630pm** in the Gateway Room- You're Invited
- ✝ **Covenant Book Group- Sept 18 at 1pm-** for information email [bookgroup@covluth.org](mailto:bookgroup@covluth.org)
- ✝ **Thank you to Marcie Mahuta** for playing Special Music for Worship service today and for offering her gifts and sharing her lovely talents with us today and throughout the year!

### WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Jacob Kettner*;  
**Greeter/s:** *Gloria Carpenter, Cynthia Liddle*;  
**Assistant Minister:** *Philayne Chose*; **Lector:** *Judy Heil*;  
**Communion Assistant:** *Philayne Chose, Judy Heil*;  
**Ushers:** *Norm and Jean Sime, Tom Christian, Carol Pritchard*;  
**Altar Guild:** *Susan Diebold*; **Communion Prep:** *Karen Hanson-Cook and Bill Cook*;  
**Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper*;  
**Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell*;  
**Altar Flowers:** *by Deb and Dan Oakland celebrating their 53rd anniversary!*

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