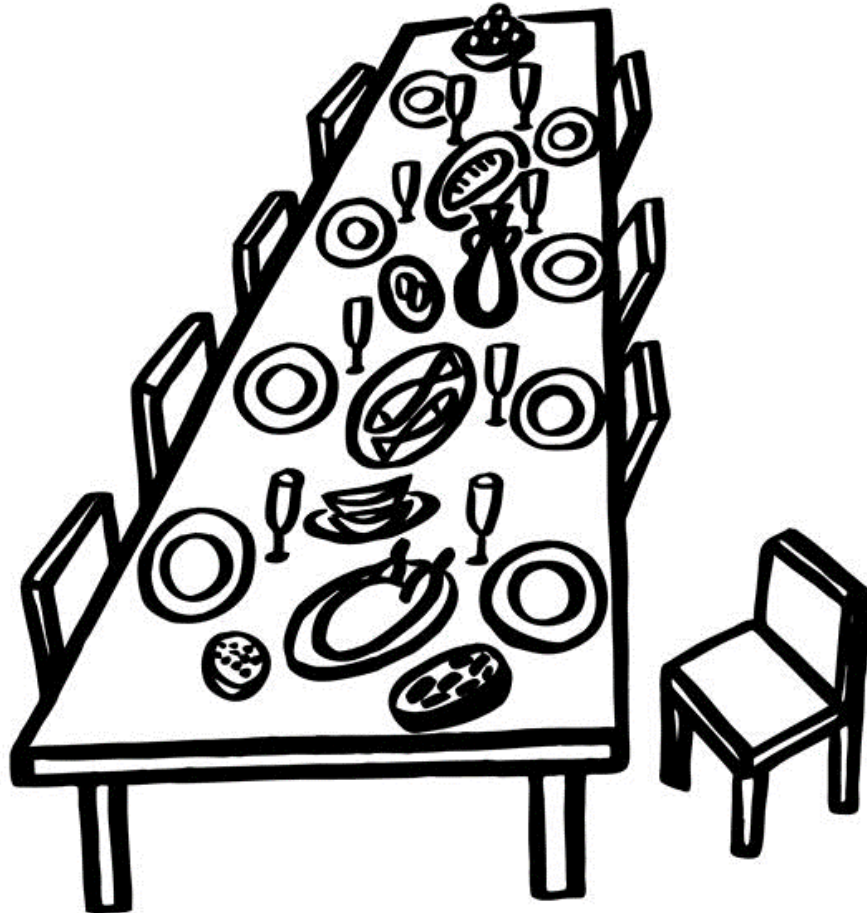




Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We Welcome you to Worship!

August 31, 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 31, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—

Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,

The Maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord watches over you—The LORD will keep you from all harm—

The Lord is your shade at your right hand;

the LORD will watch over your life;

In King Naaman's disease and distress,

he looked to the LORD for healing;

Where does my help come from?

The blind man found healing in Jesus at the pool of Siloam;

Where does my help come from?

In our times of disease, distress;
when we are in need of healing and restoration;

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth

Let us worship our LORD, giver of life and healer of all things. **Amen.**

Children's Time

Gathering Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

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

God of healing, **you are our source of life and strength, with Naaman you offered healing through the prophet Elisha's command in the waters of the Jordan. In Jesus' healing power you caused the blind man to see again. Open our eyes to see the places in ourselves and in your world that are struggling with mental illness, and inspire in us a call to be the light of Christ bringing healing to your people. Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading

2 Kings 5:1-19

A reading from second Kings, the fifth chapter.

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had

said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. ¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant." ¹⁶But he said, "As the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing!" He urged him to accept, but he refused. ¹⁷Then Naaman said, "If not, please let two mule-loads of earth be given to your servant; for your servant will no longer offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god except the LORD. ¹⁸But may the

LORD pardon your servant on one count: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow down in the house of Rimmon, when I do bow down in the house of Rimmon, may the LORD pardon your servant on this one count." ¹⁹He said to him, "Go in peace." But when Naaman had gone from him a short distance, The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music *Up Where We Belong* Joe Crocker and Jennifer Warnes

Gospel Acclamation p. 188

Gospel **Luke 8:26-39**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him.

³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened.

³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him. The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Linda and Loren Schumacher

Hymn of the Day

When Peace Like a River

ELW 785

Prayers of Intercession

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

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations (*leaders may be named*), we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor/Labour Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence especially (See Prayer Insert) < full 5 second pause >. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who are searching for healing in mind, body or spirit and those dealing with physical problems, anxiety and depression. May they feel your gentle touch reaching out with the warmth caring and love of your healing presence. Fill them with the hope that will carry them through this day and the days ahead renewed by your life-giving stream. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. 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

Come and bring your hidden places.
Come and bring your hurting spaces.
Come and eat with hearts that break.
Come and drink, new worlds to make.
Come and feast, your vision spread.
Despair and Hope connects the fed.
Jesus says, "Come!"

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God

p. 191

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

Prayer and Anointing

After receiving Holy Communion, individuals may move to a station between the sanctuary and narthex to receive prayer and oil anointing.

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit. Amen.

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'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW 860

Dismissal

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



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
Scan this QR Code to give digitally with Vanco Online Giving.
Or visit www.covluth.org and click 'On-line Giving'!
(Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.)



Announcements:

- ✝ **Stewardship Drive** Interested in working with this Covenant team? If so, contact the office
- ✝ Thank you for being at Worship! More events and Worship opportunities at Covluth.org
- ✝ **Hospitality NEEDS our help!** The Team is looking for those interested in serving this way
- ✝ **The office will be closed in honor of Labor Day Sept 1-** Love to you this holiday and always!
- ✝ **Bible Study** is not meeting Sept 3, Join **Sept 10, 17 and 24** in the Gateway Room or by zoom
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch- 1st Wed at 11:30am- Sept 3** at Sugar River Pizza, Join! Dutch Treat gathering
- ✝ **Sept 7- God's Work Our Hands, Rally Day and Blessing of the Quilts- Let's Work Together!**
- ✝ **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
- ✝ **Thank you to Glenn van Rossum, Lars Forde, Meghann Proper and Michelle Osterhaus** for offering their gifts and sharing their lovely talents with us today and throughout the year!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Linda and Loren Schumacher*; **Acolyte:** *Jacob Kettner*;

Greeter/s: *Linda Harrison, Carol Pritchard*;

Assistant Minister: *Ingrid Thompson*; **Lector:** *Kimberly Currie*;

Healing Ministers: *Shawn Cady, Karen Hanson-Cook*

Communion Assistant: *Kimberly Currie, Ann Nelson, Christy Unzicker*;

Ushers: *Mark Herbst, Rhetta Smith, Bill Cook*;

Altar Guild: *Susan Diebold*; **Communion Prep:** *Philayne Chose*;

Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper*;

Sound/projection: *Lars Forde, Amanda Burian*;

Altar Flowers: *In loving memory of Parker and Leona Ellingson by Maggie Hagen!!*

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