



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



God's work. Our hands.



September 7,
2025

We Welcome you to Worship!

September 7, 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, September 7, 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

We can trust God.

God is like the mountain: rock solid.

God loves all the people:

the poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.

We can depend on God.

God feeds the hungry, heals the sick, and restores relationships.

Praise our Loving God.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Blessing of the Backpacks Students and Teachers Mark 7:13-16

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus

saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

At the start of this new school year, we come together to bless these backpacks and those who carry them. Whether you're heading into preschool, high school, college, or teaching in a classroom, we ask for God's guidance and care.

Youth, teachers, and staff invited forward with their backpacks/bags.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, As these your children begin a new school year, we ask your blessing on them. Give them curiosity, wisdom, and kindness in the classroom. Grant teachers patience and joy in their vocation. Keep all students and staff safe, and surround them with love and support. Bless these backpacks, that they may carry not only books and supplies, but also the light of your presence and the love of this church.

May you be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;

God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Go with God, who walks with you each step of the way.

You are loved, you are not alone, and you are a blessing. **Amen!**

Gathering Hymn *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* ELW 886

vs 3,4,5

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy, the thirtieth chapter.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ 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.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music Video

Home by Another Road

Grace Notes

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “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. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ 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? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,

³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ 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? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

vs 1,4

Quilt Blessing and Sending into Mission

LaVonne Batalden

Our Saviors Lutheran of Hanover, NH

Please place your hands on a Quilt as we dedicate them to serve those in need

Gracious God, as we place our hands on these Quilts, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all your people in the body of Christ.

We celebrate being the children of God.

We give thanks for the variety of gifts that compose these Quilts: donations of fabric, thread and sewing machines, the faithful people who cut the square, design the patterns, sew the tops, make the backs and fillers, tie and stitch the bindings, provide publicity, donate boxes, pack the Quilts, and contribute the money which makes shipping of these Quilts possible. **We celebrate generosity.**

We give thanks for the fellowship of all who work together to make the Quilts, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of crafting something with one's hands and heart for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient. **We celebrate community.**

We send these Quilts as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives one, trusting that their Quilt will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of disaster and fear, a symbol of Christ's love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God.

We pray these Quilts will serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient; that they will bring warmth in the cold, shelter from the sun and heat, a wall for a home, or a carrier for a few precious belongings. May it be a step in recovering one's life and a message of care from someone they may never meet.

We celebrate hope in the midst of life's trials.

We remember those who have received our Quilts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability. **We celebrate the gift of life.**

We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need. Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are sewn together in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world.

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation.

God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray,

open our hands in love.

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now especially (See Prayer Insert). < full 5 second pause >. Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the crucified and risen one Jesus.
Amen.

Farewell and Godspeed

Amanda, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

Hear these words and may they be a comfort to you: A reading from Exodus: The LORD said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared."
Exodus 23:20

When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

Let us pray. Eternal God,
**we thank you for Amanda
and for the time we have shared with her.
As she has been a blessing to us,
so now send her forth to be a blessing to others;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love, 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.

In the same way 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me. **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

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God

p. 191

I received the Living God

ELW 477

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

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

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we undertake projects of quilt folding, card making, food collection, bell polishing, baking for EMS volunteers and highway cleanup. We ask that whatever service projects we are involved with throughout the year that God guide us. Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, especially of those in need.

Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **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:

- ✝ **Today- God's Work Our Hands, Rally Day and Blessing of the Quilts- Let's Work Together!**
- ✝ Thank you for being at Worship! More events and Worship opportunities at Covluth.org
- ✝ **Family Centered Worship** 2nd Sunday of each month come at 9:15am to learn church tasks
- ✝ **Confirmation and Sunday School resume this week, all are welcome!** Ask is you have ??'s
- ✝ **Hospitality NEEDS our help!** The Team is looking for those interested in serving this way
- ✝ **Bible Study Sept 10, 17 and 24 in Gateway Room** – in person or by zoom with link on web
- ✝ **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
- ✝ **Stewardship Drive coming up in October-** you are invited to work with this Covenant team.
- ✝ **Thank you to Grace Notes:** Meghann Proper, Angie Kettner, Donna Tarpinian and Michelle Osterhaus on accompaniment for sharing their time and talents today and all year round!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Emma Rupp*;
Greeter/s: *George Craig, Penny Vodak*;
Assistant Minister: *Ann Nelson*; **Lector:** *George Craig*;
Communion Assistant: *Bill Cook, Karen Hanson-Cook, Donna Tarpinian*;
Ushers: *Karl Nissler, Thor Anderson, Sue Richards*;
Altar Guild: *Karen Hanson-Cook*; **Communion Prep:** *Philayne Chose*;
Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper*;
Sound/projection: *Lars Forde, Amanda Burian*;
Altar Flowers: *In loving memory of Scott Barrett by his family!*

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