

# First Lutheran Church, NALC

St. Ansgar, Iowa



*Confirmation  
Sunday*

An asterisk (\*) denotes when worshipers are invited to stand.  
If it is better for you to sit for any or all of those occasions, please sit.  
God understands and so will we.

**REMINDER: Please turn your cell phones off during the worship service.**

**NO Flash photography during worship please!**

## “MY HOUSE IS THE HOUSE OF PRAYER”

First Lutheran Church  
Saint Ansgar, Iowa  
Phone 713-4873

Pastor Christopher Staley  
May 5, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

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Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

### WE COME BEFORE GOD

P: Christ is risen! **All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**PRELUDE**

**Gwen Mellmann**

**WELCOME/WORSHIP NOTES/PRAYER CONCERNS**

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING HYMN** *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

**LBW #333**

P: What is the First Commandment? **You shall have no other gods before me.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear, love, and trust God above all things.**

P: What is the Second Commandment? **You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not use his name superstitiously or to curse, swear, lie or deceive, but call upon him in every time of need, and worship him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.**

P: What is the Third Commandment? **Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not despise his Word and the preaching of it, but acknowledge it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.**

P: What is the Fourth Commandment? **Honor your father and your mother.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not show contempt for our parents and others in authority, nor provoke them to anger, but respect, obey, serve, love, and honor them.**

P: What is the Fifth Commandment: **You shall not kill.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbors no bodily harm nor cause them any suffering, but help and befriend them in every need.**

P: What is the Sixth Commandment? **You shall not commit adultery.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that in matters of sex we are chaste and disciplined in our words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.**

P: What is the Seventh Commandment? **You shall not steal.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbors of their money or property or take from them by unfair dealing or fraud, but help them to improve and protect their property and means of making a living.**

P: What is the Eighth Commandment? **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, lie, or gossip about our neighbors, but defend them, speak well of them, and put the most charitable construction on all that they do.**

P: What is the Ninth Commandment: **You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not plot to take our neighbors' possessions, inheritance, or home, or obtain them through deceptive means, but assist and serve our neighbors in keeping what is theirs.**

P: What is the Tenth Commandment? **You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse, workers, or livestock, or anything that is your neighbor's.**

P: What does this mean? **We should fear and love God so that we do not ruin our neighbors' relationships with their spouse, workers, or livestock, or try to lure them away, but encourage them to remain and serve each other faithfully.**

P: What does God declare concerning all these commandments? **He says, "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments." Exodus 20:5b-6**

P: What does this mean? **God threatens to punish all who violate these commandments. We should, therefore, fear His anger and in no way disobey them. But God promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. We should, therefore, love Him, trust in Him, and gladly keep His commandments.**

### **THE GREETING**

P: The Lord be with you.      C: **And also with you.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray, **Almighty God, to know You is to have eternal life. Grant us to know Your son as the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and guide our footsteps along the Way of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON**

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### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**CONFIRMATION HYMN:**    *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

**WOV #651**

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM:**

**Chairman of the Congregation:** This young man and these young women have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism: Victoria Lynn Hermanson, Ella Grace Horgen, and Trey Austin Johanns.

P: Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. What is baptism? **Baptism is not merely water; it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.**

P: What is this Word of God? **It is the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the last chapter of Matthew, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19**

P: What gifts or benefits does Baptism bring? **It brings about forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare.**

P: What is this Word and promise of God? **It is the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16**

- P: How can water do such great things? **It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God connected with the water and our faith which relies on that Word. For without the Word of God it is simply water and not Baptism. But when connected with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit. As Saint Paul says to Titus: "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy spirit, Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy." Titus 3:5-8a**
- P: What is the significance of baptizing with water? **It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil desires, should be drowned by daily repentance and sorrow for sin, and be put to death, and that the new person should come forth every day and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**
- P: Where is this written? **Saint Paul says in Romans: "We were buried therefore with Him by Baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4**
- P: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of His Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from His Word God's loving purpose for You and all creation. You have been nourished at His holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises:

**Confirmands:** I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**Confirmands:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: What does this mean? **I believe that God has created me and all that exists, that He has given me and still preserves my body and soul, my eyes and ears, my reason and all my senses, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property. Every day He provides abundantly for all the needs of my life. He protects me from all danger and guards and keeps me from every evil. He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I ought to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true!**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father?

**Confirmands:** 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.

P: What does this mean? **I believe that Jesus -- true God, begotten of the Father from eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, and has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil, not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He has done all this that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns for all eternity. This is most certainly true!**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Confirmands:** 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: What does this mean? **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith. In the same way, He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in unity with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church, He daily forgives abundantly all my sins and the sins of all believers; and at the last day, He will raise me and all the dead and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true!**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people; to gladly hear and learn His Word and share in His supper; to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each confirmand answers in turn:*

**Confirmand:** I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Let us pray. . . Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit You have made this young man and these young women Your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them Your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, and all God's people say, **Amen**

*Each confirmand, in turn, kneels at the center of the altar rail while his or her family group gathers around to place a hand on the confirmand.*

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake stir up in \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of Your Holy Spirit; confirm his/her faith, guide him/her life, empower him/her in her serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to everlasting life.

**Confirmand:** Amen

## **PRESENTATION OF BIBLES & CERTIFICATES**

**P:** Please pray: **C:** Thank you, Heavenly Father, for blessing us with these children. We thank you, Holy Spirit, for giving them the new birth of faith in Holy Baptism. We thank You, Lord Jesus, for being their Savior and Friend. Help us to continue to be the kind of parents, sponsors, and fellow members of the Body of Christ You want us to be. We pledge ourselves to be examples to them in our own worship and daily life. Amen.

**P:** God, our Father, You see our children growing up in an often uncertain and confusing world. Show them that Your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following You is far better than chasing after worldly gains. Give them strength to hold tight to their faith in You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**C: Amen**

**P:** What is the Office of the Keys? **It is the unique power which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of penitent sinners, and to retain the sins of the impenitent, so long as they do not repent.**

**P:** Where is this written? **Christ Himself declares: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld" (John 20:23). And, "Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 18:18).**

**P:** What is confession? **Confession consists of two parts. One is that we confess our sins and the other is that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the confessor as from God Himself, in no way doubting, but firmly believing that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.**

**P:** What sins should we confess? **Before God we should acknowledge ourselves guilty of all kinds of sins, even those of which we are not aware, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. To the confessor, however, we should confess only those sins which we know and which trouble us.**

**P:** What are such sins? **Here examine yourself in the light of the Ten Commandments whether as a father or mother, son or daughter, employer or employee, and consider whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, lazy, angry, sexually unfaithful, or quarrelsome; whether you have injured anyone by word or deed; stolen, neglected, or wasted anything; or done any other evil.**

**P:** Let each of you take some time to examine yourself as we prepare to confess.

*(A time of silence is observed.)*

**P:** Most merciful God, **We confess that we are in bondage to sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your son, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgives all sins. As a Minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you who do truly repent and believe in Him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, by the same authority, I declare unto you who are impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as you fail truly to repent of your sins, God has not forgiven your sins, and will assuredly visit your iniquities upon you, if you refuse to turn from your ways, and come to true repentance and faith in Christ, before the day of grace is ended. **Amen**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**L:** The peace of the Lord be with you always

**C:** **And also with you.**

### **THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

**p. 66**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

**p. 67**

**P:** Merciful Father,

**All: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him Who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **THE PRAYERS**

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#### **WE ARE FORGIVEN, STRENGTHENED AND UNITED IN THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*We believe that the true body and blood of Christ are really present under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Sacrament. We receive this Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins through which we receive life and salvation. All baptized Christians who so believe and are admitted to Holy Communion in their home congregations are welcome to join us at Our Lord's Table. Please extend your hand to receive the bread. Non-communicating children are also encouraged to come forward for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**P:** What is Holy Communion? **Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.**

**P:** Where is this written? **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul say: "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.'"**

- P: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking? **It is pointed out in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the Sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation.**
- P: How can bodily eating and drinking produce such great benefits? **It is not the eating and drinking alone, but also the words that accompany it, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, together with the eating and drinking, are the chief thing in the Sacrament, and those who believe them have what they say and declare, namely, the forgiveness of sins.**
- P: When is a person worthy to receive the Sacrament? **Fasting and other outward disciplines are indeed good preparation, but people are truly worthy and well prepared who believe these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But those who do not believe these words or who doubt them are unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require truly believing hearts.**


## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

- P: How did Jesus teach His disciples to pray? **He told them, "When you pray, say this: Our Father, Who art in Heaven."**
- P: What does this mean? **God encourages us to believe that He is truly our Father, and that we are truly His children, so that we may boldly and confidently pray to Him, just as beloved children speak to their dear father. Hallowed be Thy Name.**
- P: What does this mean? **God's Name is indeed holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us.**
- P: How is this done? **God's Name is hallowed when His Word is taught in its truth and purity and we, as God's children, lead holy lives in accordance with it. Grant this to us, dear Father in heaven. But whoever teaches and lives in ways other than what God's Word teaches dishonors the name of God among us. Prevent us from doing this, heavenly Father. Thy kingdom come.**
- P: What does this mean? **The Kingdom of God comes indeed by itself, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.**
- P: How is this done? **God's Kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live a godly life now and in eternity. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**
- P: What does this mean? **The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it will also be done among us.**



- P: How is this done? **God's will is done when He hinders and destroys every evil design and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature that would keep us from hallowing His name and prevent the coming of His kingdom. And God's will is done when He strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in His Word and faith to the end of our earthly lives. This is His good and gracious will. Give us this day our daily bread.**
- P: What does this mean? **God indeed gives daily bread to all, even unbelievers, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that He would help us to recognize this so that we would receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.**
- P: What is meant by daily bread? **Daily bread includes everything required to meet our earthly needs, such as food, drink, clothing, home, property, employment, necessities; devout parents, children, and communities; honest and faithful authorities, good government, seasonable weather, peace, health, and orderly society, a good reputation, true friends and neighbors, and the like. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
- P: What does this mean? **We pray in this petition that our heavenly Father would not hold our sins against us and deny our prayers because of them. We know we have not earned, nor do we deserve, those things for which we pray. But we ask that He would grant us all things through grace, even though we sin every day and deserve nothing but punishment. And so we, too, will heartily forgive, and gladly do good to those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation.**
- P: What does this mean? **God indeed tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and protect us from this, that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, but pray that when we are tempted in these ways, we may finally prevail and gain the victory. But deliver us from evil.**
- P: What does this mean? **We pray in this petition, as in a summary, that our heavenly Father would deliver us from every type of evil (whether it affects our bodies or souls, property or reputation) and at last, when our hour of death comes, would grant us a blessed end to our earthly lives, and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to Himself in heaven. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**
- P: What does this mean? **It means that I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to our heavenly Father and are heard by Him, for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this manner and has promised to hear us. So we pray with confidence: "Amen," meaning, "Yes, it shall be so."**
- P: Behold the Lamb of God, **Who takes away the sins of the world.**

## LAMB OF GOD:



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy on us,  
mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. world. Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

**The Distribution – Continuous Communion** We will start on the north (pulpit) side in the back. The balcony will come next, then the south side (lectern) from the back. If it would be better for you to receive Communion where you are sitting, please let an usher know when one approaches your pew. Children who do not yet commune will receive a blessing from Pastor.

**Hymns during distribution: #439, 390, 377, 448**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace and all God's people say, **Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE, BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN – (sung)

WOV #790

*As you go on your way, may God go with you.*

*May He go before you to show you the way.*

*May He go behind you to encourage you,*

*beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over,*

*within you to give you peace. Amen, Amen, Amen*

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

LBW #389

P: Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## DISMISSAL

**\*Organ Chimes and Postlude**

## WE LEAVE TO WORSHIP THE LORD WITH OUR LIVES

**GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME** to our worship services. **A WARM WELCOME** to our visitors...please sign our guest register in the narthex and come again! **GOOD MORNING** to members and friends at the Good Samaritan Center.

**THE MISSION OF FIRST LUTHERAN**-We are all called by God to continue to spread the Christian faith to all people.

**We believe** that children should be part of the worship service. Occasionally, children challenge this belief. Should you desire to use our Nursery, it is located in the basement of the church. It provides a place for the child and allows the parent(s) to continue to hear the service.

**TOTE-BAGS FOR KIDS:** There are several bags available in the narthex for families with young children to use during the service. Inside the bag are small toys, books, and etc. to use during the service.



**Victoria Lynn Hermanson**, daughter of Erik & Danelle Hermanson, Baptized 6/6/10, sponsors: Alexander Schmidt, Rycki (Leraaen) Mehmert

*Jesus spoke to them saying "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

**Ella Grace Horgen**, daughter of Ryan & Renee Horgen, Baptized 1/17/10, sponsors: Darin & Dani Horgen

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Psalm 32:8-9*

**Trey Austin Johanns**, son of Tyler & Cari Johanns, Baptized, 12/6/09, sponsors: Rob & Amber Sherrard

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3*

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**THE PASCHAL CANDLE** -The tall candle burning in the chancel during the Easter season is the Paschal Candle. "Paschal" refers to "Passover". Jesus is like the Passover Lamb which was sacrificed in Egypt so that those families who had the mark of the Lamb's blood on their front door were spared by the angel of death. (Ex. 12) Thus, the "Paschal Candle" is the Church's sign for Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us and rose again (Rev. 5)

The Paschal Candle is burned throughout the seven weeks of Easter (until Jesus' Ascension). It is also lighted as the sign of resurrection and new life at a Christian's baptism, and at the funeral of a Christian

**The last day of Sunday school** will be May 12<sup>th</sup>. We thank all the people who have given of their time to help our children grow in their faith. We encourage families to bring your children to worship all summer to continue hearing and sharing in God's Word.

**We have an active/updated website!** Go to [www.firstlutheranstansgar.com](http://www.firstlutheranstansgar.com) to see the current calendar, weekly bulletin, newsletter, links to our Facebook page, webcam, and the NALC website.

