

FAITH LUTHERAN & NORTH NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCHES

"Gathered in Christ to Serve, Love, and Welcome All"

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Faith Lutheran Church, 253 S Main St, Rosholt, WI

North New Hope Lutheran Church, 845 Cty Rd, Amherst Junction, WI

Sunday September 27th, 2026
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word



Preparation for Worship – Lord, quiet the distractions within us and around us as we gather in Your presence. Open our hearts to Your Word, fill our minds with Your truth and lead us to worship You with sincerity and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen..

Words of Welcome – This is the Lord's house. The Lord is here to welcome all who have come. Let us join in the spirit of love and peace for all who worship the Creator of us all.

OPENING STATEMENT/PURPOSE:

Betsie: Why are we here?

All: *We are Gathered in Christ to Serve, Love, and Welcome All.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we**

have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG:

TESTIMONY, WITNESS

Sunshine in My Soul 619

For God...made His light shine in our hearts. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV)

1. There is sun-shine in my soul to - day, More glo - ri - ous and bright
2. There is mu - sic in my soul to - day, A car - ol to my King;
3. There is mu - sic in my soul to - day, For when my Lord is near
4. There is glad-ness in my soul to - day, And hope and praise and love

Than glows in an - y earth-ly sky, For Je - sus is my light.
And Je - sus, lis - ten - ing, can hear The songs I can - not sing.
The dove of peace sings in my heart, The flowers of grace ap - pear.
For bless - ings which He gives me now, For joys "laid up" a - bove.

Chorus

O there's sun - shine in my soul, bless - ed sun - shine in my soul,
O there's sun - shine in my soul, bless - ed sun - shine in my soul,

When the peace - ful, hap - py mo - ments roll; When
hap - py mo - ments roll;

Je - sus shows His smil - ing face, There is sun - shine in my soul.

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

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *A reading from Ezekiel.*

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² *My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.*

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ *Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.*

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ *Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.*

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your
steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ *You are gracious and up-right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.*

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13 *A reading from Philippians.*

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human,⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work

on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (**Red Hymnal #172**)

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew. *Glory to you, O Lord.*

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON:

BETSIE GRAHAM

HYMN OF THE DAY: My Faith Looks Up to Thee (Red Hymnal #759)

*1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!*

*Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!*

*2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!*

*3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.*

*4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;*

*blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!*

APOSTLES CREED

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love.

Hear us, O God. *Your mercy is great.*

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. *Your mercy is great.*

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. *Your mercy is great.*

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need (*especially*). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. *Your mercy is great.*

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. We pray for our siblings at Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Iola and Pastor Gail Kenny. Hear us, O God. *Your mercy is great.*

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God. *Your mercy is great.*

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. *And also with you.*

OFFERING:

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (Red Hymnal p219)

*Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.
Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O God of the universe;
just and true are your ways,
O Ruler of all the nations.
Who can fail to honor you, Lord,
and sing the glory of your name?*

*Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.
For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one
whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!
Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (Red Hymnal p220)

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God, *we give you thanks and praise.*
By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God, *we give you thanks and praise.*
Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God, *we give you thanks and praise.*
Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. *Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW 742)

*1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!*

*2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.*

FAITH: BLESSING OF THE QUILTS AND DISMISSAL

“Families are like quilts. Lives, pieced together. Stitched with smiles and tears. Colored by Memories and Bound by Love”

L: God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

C: *Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.*

L: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, and sewing machines. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these offer dignity and healing.

C: *Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.*

L: God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

C: *Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.*

L: God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at Lutheran World Relief. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.

C: *Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.*

L: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

C: *Amen.*

Dismissal:

L: Recognizing God's abundant hope, go and be a sign of hope to our neighbors near and far: offering hands to hold, sweet scents of justice, and a feast of God's goodness. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NORTH NEW HOPE: DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. *Thanks be to God.*

FAITH & NORTH NEW HOPE PURPOSE STATEMENT:

Adopted at the Purpose & Values workshop—"Gathered in Christ to Serve, Love, and Welcome All."

NORTH NEW HOPE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: Preschool through 6th grade at 9:30am. Noisy Offering last Sunday of every month. Please be generous, this funds our Sunday School.

FAITH LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: Faith Sunday School is held during worship, inform ushers your child is attending & Josh/Chelsea will lead them to the Fireside room for lessons, crafts, treats, & fun!

GREETING CARDS AT FAITH: Greeting cards at Faith-Free Will donation

PRAYERS FOR CONGREGATIONS IN TOMORROW RIVER CONFERENCE: We pray for our siblings at Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Iola and Pastor Gail Kenny

FAITH OLD FASHION DINNER OCTOBER 18 11am-1pm: Sign up sheets in the Narthex for helpers, servers, and desserts for the Old Fashion Dinner Serving 11am to 1pm.

FAITH WELCA M.O.M. JAR FOR THE FAMILY OF ADDISON CIESIELSKI: Scott & Becky Ciesieski welcomed their daughter Addison on 5/15/2026, 12 hours later Addy was transferred to NICU then learned that Addy has a gene mutation which causes seizures. Grandparents Lenore & David Peterson. There will be a benefit for Addy on October 18th 1pm to 5pm at Springville Sports Barn in Plover. See poster on bulletin board for more detailed information.

ROSHOLT PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: Soup, Jelly, Juice, Rice, Toilet paper, and brown paper bags with handles. Drop off donations on Sundays & office hours. Pantry now has freezers/fridges and can now accept fresh or frozen meats & dairy. There is a tub in the kitchen fridge to store donations. Rosholt Food Pantry open 1st & 3rd Mondays of every month 3-5pm. If you have a need or know of families in need, ***Call Dawn Cherek 715-570-3045.***

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER OF PORTAGE COUNTY: ADRC Nutrition Program for seniors aged 60 and older. Rosholt ADRC dining site Nelson/Kaminski American Legion Hall. Meals are served on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays every month. Noon lunch. Suggested donation of \$5. ***RSVP Lisa, 715-347-4856.***

TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 31st FAITH PARKING LOT: 10/31/2026 from 5pm to 7pm Faith and North New Hope will be jointing hosting a Trunk or Treat. Please come, open your trunks, and enjoy all the trick or treaters! Decorate your trunk, give out candy, make a pot of chili, and have a fun evening!

ST WNCESLAUS PARISH MILLADORE CHICKEN DINNER SUNDAY 10/4/2026 11am-1pm: Drive thru only-Watch for signs. Dinner includes Chicken breast & thigh, Dressing, Potato, Sauerkraut with Sausage, Carrots, Dessert, & Kolaches. \$15

EMPTY BOWLS PORTAGE COUNTY: The Hunger Prevention Partnership will host "Empty Bowls" on Saturday 10/17/2026. Each one who comes to the event pays \$13 for a ceramic bowl, for soup, bread sticks, a drink, and cookies. The bowl is theirs to keep. Soup will be served from 11am to 2pm. There will also be a marketplace, music, and a raffle. All Proceeds go to feeding the hungry of Portage County. As in the past, Empty Bowls is asking for assistance by baking cookies. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you want to donate some home baked cookies. Please drop off your cookies by Wednesday 10/14 2pm and Empty Bowls will pick up.

PASTOR HEINTZ OFFICE HOURS: Pastor Joyce will usually be in the office on Wednesdays during office hours.

DEADLINE November NEWSLETTER October 20, 2026 2pm DEADLINE BULLETINS WEDNESDAYS 2pm

Faith & N New Hope Joint Parish Staff

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Organist New Hope: Lenore Peterson
Organist Faith: Craig Anderson

Prayers for Healing

Please remember those who are ill or otherwise in need of prayer, especially:

FAITH:

Our Members: Jackie, Dawn & Paul, Betsy & Al, Rose, and Heidi.

Our Friends: John, Robert, Ed, Roger, Alice, Bob, Kathy, Patty, Jake, Laura, Mallory, Kathy, Jim, and the family of Joe Meronk.

NORTH NEW HOPE:

Our Members: Alyce, Berniece, and Addison.

Our Friends: Ron, Margaret, and Bernice,

Please call or email the Church Office to add to or remove someone on the prayer list.