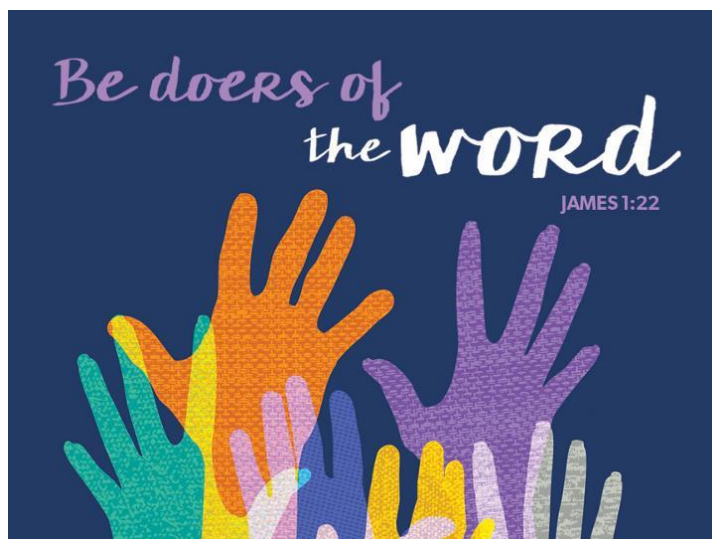


First Lutheran Church

In-person, iHeart Radio 620 am and on Facebook livestream -
<https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheransiouxcity/>



HOLY COMMUNION

Time after Pentecost

Sunday ☩ September 1, 2024 ☩ 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Authentic religion

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Wherever You Go

Jim Brickman

OPENING HYMN

"Dearest Jesus, at your Word"

ELW 520

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

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

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

TIME FOR CHILDREN

WORD

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

READING *God's law: a sign of a great nation* Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and

ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15 *LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?*

The reader introduces the psalm, the assembly responds with the bold print.

¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those
who fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not
take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes
against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never
be overthrown.

READING *Be doers of the word, not hearers only* James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to

listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia, ELW 174

We stand and proclaim the gospel in song.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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GOSPEL READING

Authentic religion

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

A holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

SERMON

silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God, My Faithful God”

ELW 806

INSTALLATION

Bishop Lorna Halaas

Vicar Bruce Pollock is a student at Wartburg Seminary. He will be serving at First Lutheran as a deacon intern. For the next six months, or so, Vicar Bruce will be leading worship, preaching and assisting with faith formation programming at First Lutheran. Vicar Bruce is trained as a church architect, he brings many years of experience as a lay person to his field of interest. He will be visiting ELCA congregations throughout the synod applying his gifts to assist congregations with their buildings, making them accessible for all worshippers. We are delighted to be part of Vicar Bruce's education as he seeks to be ordained as a deacon in the church.

APOSTLES' CREED

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again 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

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God,
in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Lamb of God”

Twila Paris
(arr. Mark Hayes)



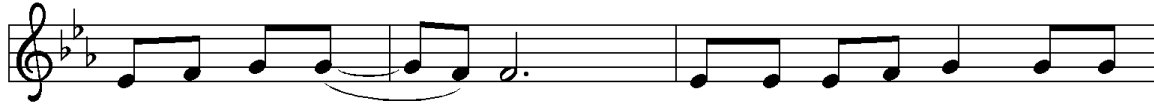
OFFERTORY

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW 185



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

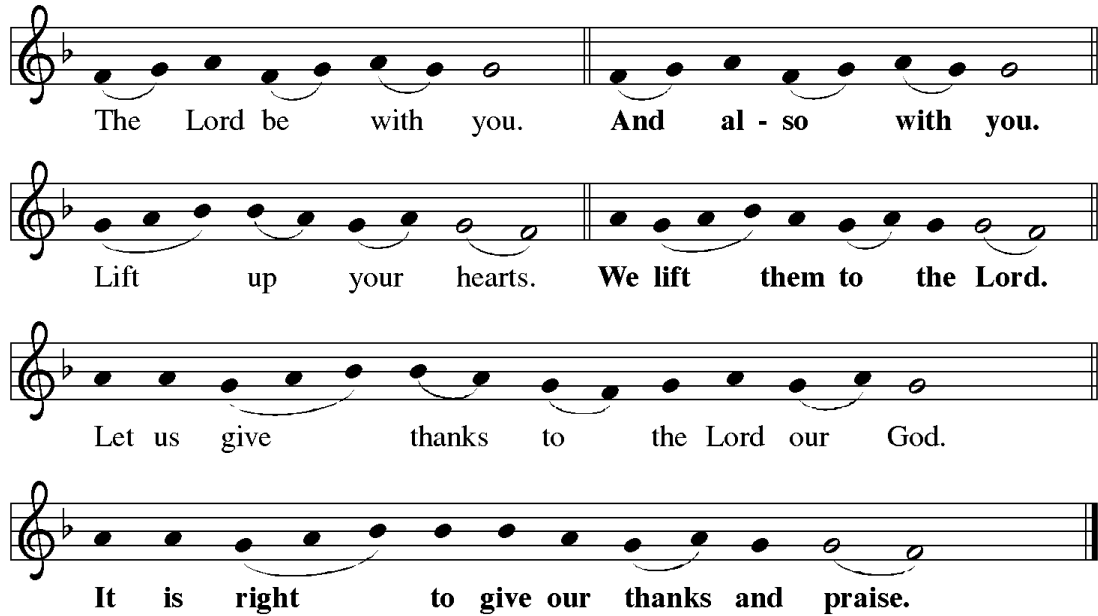
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue and Preface



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.



Holy, Holy, Holy (You are Holy)

ELW 525



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* May be sung in canon.

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945
Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling
Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress in North America,
South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

Words of Institution

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. ...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

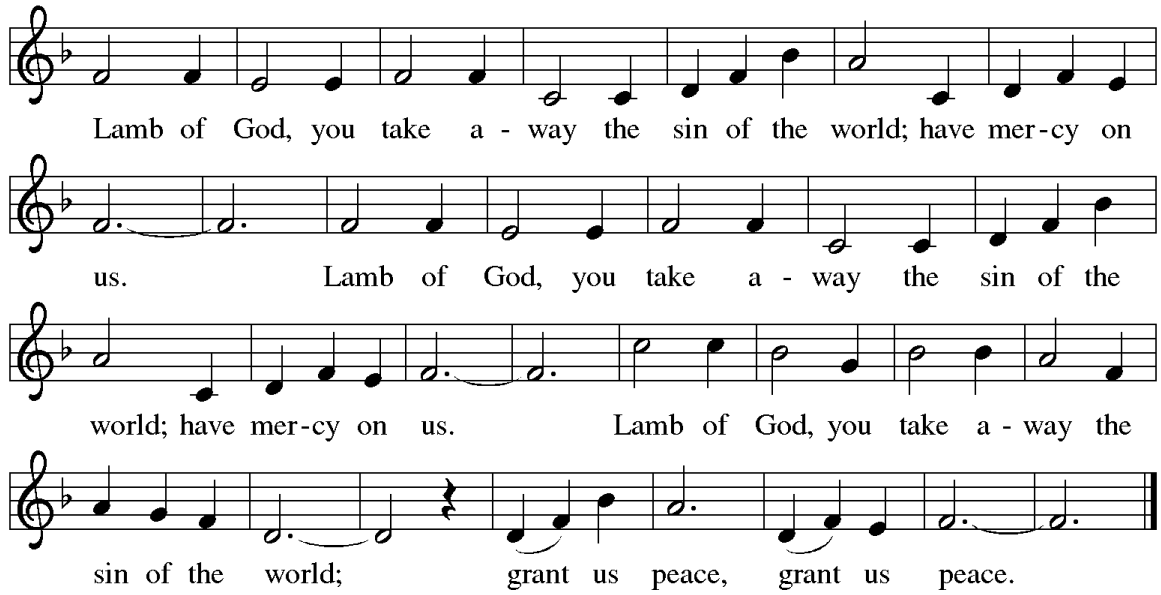
Communion ministers:

Pastor Egbers, Bishop Lorna and Vicar Bruce

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"

ELW 195



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

ELW 512

Sung through multiple times.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a single line on a five-line staff. The lyrics are: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word." The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood." The third staff has the lyrics: "When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,". The fourth staff continues with: "warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way." The fifth staff concludes with: "Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil." The music ends with a double bar line.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✝ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Musique Royale”

Michel Delalande

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Scott Egbers	<i>presider</i>
Bishop Lorna Halaas	<i>installation presider</i>
Alison Hertenstein	<i>assisting minister, reader</i>
Vicar Bruce Pollock	<i>communion minister</i>
Randy Benton	<i>pianist</i>
David Gross	<i>sacristan</i>
Denise Powell	<i>usher</i>
Mike Van Beest	<i>greeter</i>
Ben and Ellie Hertenstein	<i>sound and media technicians</i>
-----	<i>radio and livestream broadcasts</i>
Bev Rosenkrans and Fran Krommenhoek	<i>coffee fellowship</i>

First Lutheran Church

3939 Cheyenne Blvd, Sioux City, Iowa 51104
712 239 3942 www.firstlutheransc.org

Pastor Kristine Stedje
flcpastor3939@gmail.com

Lindsey McGinty
flc3939officemanager@gmail.com



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME. WORSHIP. SERVICE.

Announcements

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church. We are a welcoming congregation who worships and serves the God we love. Thank you for being flexible and perhaps this more intimate space this summer will allow you to sit near someone new! We are thankful to Pastor Scott Egbers for serving as our pulpit supply preacher today.

Today, we install Vicar Bruce Pollock as our deacon intern. We are thankful that Bishop Lorna Halaas is with us today to install him.

Holy Communion will be served today standing by intinction. Gluten-wafers are available, simply ask your server. All are welcome at Jesus' meal.

Pastor Kristine returns from sabbatical this week. Vicar Bruce will spend the week at Wartburg Seminary for prologue. He returns next week as we begin fall programming and forming faith for all ages.

Weekly Schedule, First Lutheran Meetings and Activities

Today, September 1

Installation of Vicar Bruce Pollock

Coffee fellowship, following worship in Fireside Room

Tuesday, September 3

Pastor Kristine returns from sabbatical

6p Executive Committee Meeting

6:30p Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 4

9a-11:30a Food Pantry, Volunteers: Candy Johnson & Becki McGlaufflin

1p WELCA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 8

Siouxland ELCA Worship: God's Work. Our Hands.