

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

New Hope Lutheran Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/Katiesfoodpantry/>

Welcome - Thank you for sharing worship

Leading Worship

Ministers	Every Member and Friend
Presiding	Pastor Jeff Swanson
Music Director	Gail Manago
Worship Assistant	Karen Miller
Reader	Steve Marshall
Ushers	Angie Gifford & Monika Hughes
Tech Team	Kathy Brosch, Debbie Strom, Jeff Strom
Sound	Howard Swan, Kitt Swan
Video	Craig Sharp, Steve Marshall
Song Leaders	Susan Hernandez, Martina Jackson, Christine Swan
Flautist	Carol Riley

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

The Rite of Confession & Forgiveness. *It first appeared in the Middle Ages. Confession was introduced as part of the Priest's personal preparation for worship. With the Reformation the confession was opened to the entire congregation.*

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, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,

**we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.
Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

ELW 695 (Red) All Saints Of Old

- 1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought
of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today firstfruits would bring,
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.
- 2 A world in need now summons us
to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering
to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love;
all life in Christ made new.
- 3 In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

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Prayer Of The Day— *this prayer collects us together in prayer before the triune God and turns us toward the scripture themes of the day.*

Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Come Holy Spirit and speak to us through the scripture readings,

Assigned but not read: Psalm 113 The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)

The First Reading is from the 8th Chapter of Amos

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and
practice deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and
selling the sweepings of the wheat.” ⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never
forget any of their deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading is from the 2nd Chapter of 1 Timothy

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church’s focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for
everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in
all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to
be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator
between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the
truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading is from the 16th Chapter of Luke

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Oh Christ.

Message:

Pastor Jeff Swanson

ACS1036 (Blue) Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

- 1 Commonwealth is God's commandment;
common goods are meant to share.
Tables set and doors wide open
welcome angels unaware.

Refrain

Plead for the peace of all creation.
Pray for a place where grace is found.
Shanti, pax, shalom, maslaha:
common good is holy ground.

- 2 Sharing lavish gifts and blessings,
love that not one mite withholds,
stretch out arms to friends and strangers:
God has sheep of many folds. *Refrain*
- 3 Genders, races, tribes, and nations,
hear the Holy One who calls,
biding all to work together,
bridging lives and breaching walls. *Refrain*

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The Prayers

Gracious God, we come to you to pray.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, especially Ingrid, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints especially Mary Etta, who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Peace - *Matthew 5:23-24 If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Also Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, "greet one another," a symbol of peace and of love.*

The God of love and peace be with you always.
And also with you.

Our Offerings to God *in gratitude to God we return a part of what he has given us as an offering realizing that all we have is God's. The offering that is gathered is for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need locally and worldwide.*

Enjoy the special music as the gifts are gathered.

After the gifts are gathered, please stand as you are able and join in singing.

Feed Us With Hunger For Justice

ACS 968 (Blue)

Feed us with hunger for justice.
Feed us with thirst for peace.

Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960 Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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Let us Pray, Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Meal

Communion ~ Simply being here makes you a part of the New Hope Family. We invite and welcome everyone to share this sacred time of fellowship, forgiveness and renewal. More importantly, it is Jesus himself who welcomes and urges you to come forward.

In this "meal" of Communion we believe that Christ is truly present and comes to us, in, with and under the bread and wine. Christ's real presence is one of the great mysteries of faith. This gift of Christ's very self in the bread and wine proclaims God's saving Word, feeds and nourishes our faith, forgives our sins, and sends us into the world to continue to be Christ's real presence in the world today.

Christ is here among us.
Christ is truly with us

Words Of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us join together praying as Jesus taught us:

C 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

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

Invitation To Communion

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
All are invited to come to the banquet.

Communion Distribution

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say; The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Each person may respond, Amen. The wine is red, if you prefer grape juice is light color. Place your empty cups in the baskets on the side

ELW 793 (Red) Be Thou My Vision

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
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Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray, O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Announcements

-  **Sign up** sheets in the back –
“Get Together” Lunch on September 16 at noon
Provide Meals for Meal Train
Help at the Rummage Sale
-  **Please see** Karen to purchase tickets for the beautiful quilt in the back

ELW 669 (Red) Rise Up, O Saints Of God

- 1 Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.

- 5 Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

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Benediction Blessing

We Are Sent Into The World To Share What Has Been Given To Us

Please stand as you are able

Please join in singing the **Sending Song**

***Brothers, sisters, all are we part of God's great family.
As we go from this place, may God keep us in His grace.
May God keep us in His grace.***

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE TODAY.

We are so glad you worshipped here today and invite you again. If you are looking for a faith family we invite you to consider New Hope

The Mission of New Hope is to discover, experience, and share God's love with our hearts, hands and voices.

New Hope's Vision: As followers of Christ we will:

- encourage a spiritual journey
- celebrate the diversity and gifts that each person brings
- learn from each other
- engage with the world around us

Commemorations

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, Sunday, September 21, 2025

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

September 28 – Pastor Ron Brooker

Readings for September 28: Amos 6:1a, 4-7 *Warnings to those who are comfortable or wealthy,*

Psalm 146 The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (*Ps. 146:7*), **1 Timothy 6:6-19**

Eager to be rich or eager to pursue richness of God's justice?, Luke 16:19-31 *Story of poor Lazarus and the wealthy man*

New Hope QR Code



Love or Money?

A rich landowner tells his unsatisfactory manager he's going to fire him. We don't know how long the employee had to clear his desk, but apparently it was long enough to win friends and influence the people who had accounts with his boss. The manager called them in and reduced their debt. When the boss heard about it, for some reason he didn't call his lawyer but sat back and laughed in admiration. How could Jesus tell a story where the main character is a crook? Why did the boss commend the bad manager? What is Jesus trying to tell us? This parable can be difficult for us to interpret. One possibility: Dr. Audrey West, in the 2004 Lutheran Woman Today Bible study, described a parable as a story about something ordinary, with a surprise or twist that leads us to experience reality in a new way, so that it may even transform our daily living. The surprise in this parable is not the manager's self-serving behavior, as we've seen for ourselves in some corporate accounting scandals in the news. The surprise is the boss showing mercy. Does this boss remind you of someone? Maybe the landowner in another parable who pays a full day's wage to farm workers who spent barely one hour in the vineyard? The father running out to welcome a shamed and destitute, long-lost son? Or someone who's been in the news lately? Is there any way that he reminds you of God? In God's economy, people matter more than profits. The prophet (first reading), the psalmist, and Jesus, telling the parable, agree on this. The epistle writer adds a prayer for "a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity" for everyone, boss and beggar alike.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Interim Pastor
Vicar
Katie's Pantry Director
Rocky Mountain Synod
ELCA Churchwide

Jeff Swanson
Thania Drake
Mary Anez & The Rev Jeff St. Clair
The Rev Dr. Meghan Aelabouni, Bishop
The Rev Yiehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop