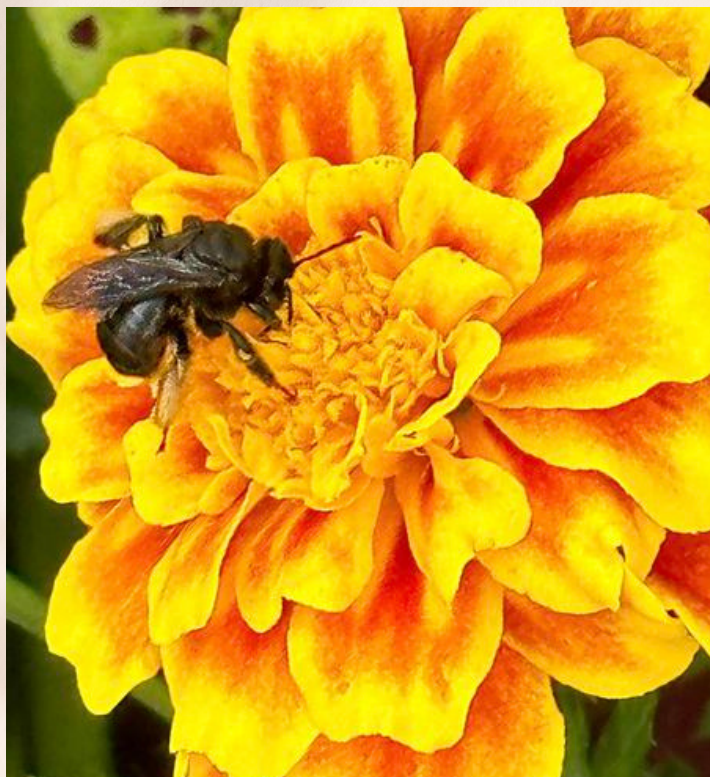


# Fredsville Evangelical Lutheran Church September 2023 Newsletter

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# Worship Readings, Prayers, and Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com

## Sunday, September 3- The 14th Sunday After Pentecost

**Green**

God calls Moses to come near the burning bush on holy ground and sends him to go lead the liberation of the Israelites. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world reflecting Jesus' love for us.

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- **Exodus 3:1-15-** From the blazing bush God calls Moses
- **Psalms 105:1-8-** Make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples. Halleluja! (Ps. 105:1, 45)
- **Romans 12:9-21-** Live in harmony
- **Matthew 16:21-28-** The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

## Sunday, September 10- The 15th Sunday After Pentecost

**Green**

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

### **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Continued on Next Page

- **Ezekiel 33:7-11-** The prophet's responsibility to warn the people
- **Psalms 119:33-40-** I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)
- **Romans 13:8-14-** Live honorably as in the day
- **Matthew 18:15-20-** Reconciliation in the community of faith

**Sunday, September 17- The 16th Sunday After Pentecost** **Green**

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

**Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

- **Exodus 14:19-31-** Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea
- **Psalms 103:[1-7]8-13-** Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)
- **Romans 14:1-12-** Accepting diversity in the community of faith
- **Matthew 18:21-35-** A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

**Sunday, September 24- The 17th Sunday After Pentecost** **Green**

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.



## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

- **Jonah 3:10--4:11**- God's concern for the city of Nineveh
- **Psalms 145:1-8**- The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)
- **Philippians 1:21-30**- Standing firm in the gospel
- **Matthew 20:1-16**- The parable of the vineyard workers





## Pastoral Pondering ... Season of Creation

If you have ever had an opportunity to explore a cathedral you know that there are chapels and alters all through the space. From the large and ornate to the simple and reverent. Yet, as we explore scripture, we know that much of the story of God's people does not happen in buildings, it is a story lived outside. From Eden, to the burning bush, throughout Jesus's ministry, God's story is in open air. God's Kingdom promise of Resurrection is not just for people, it is a promise for all of creation.

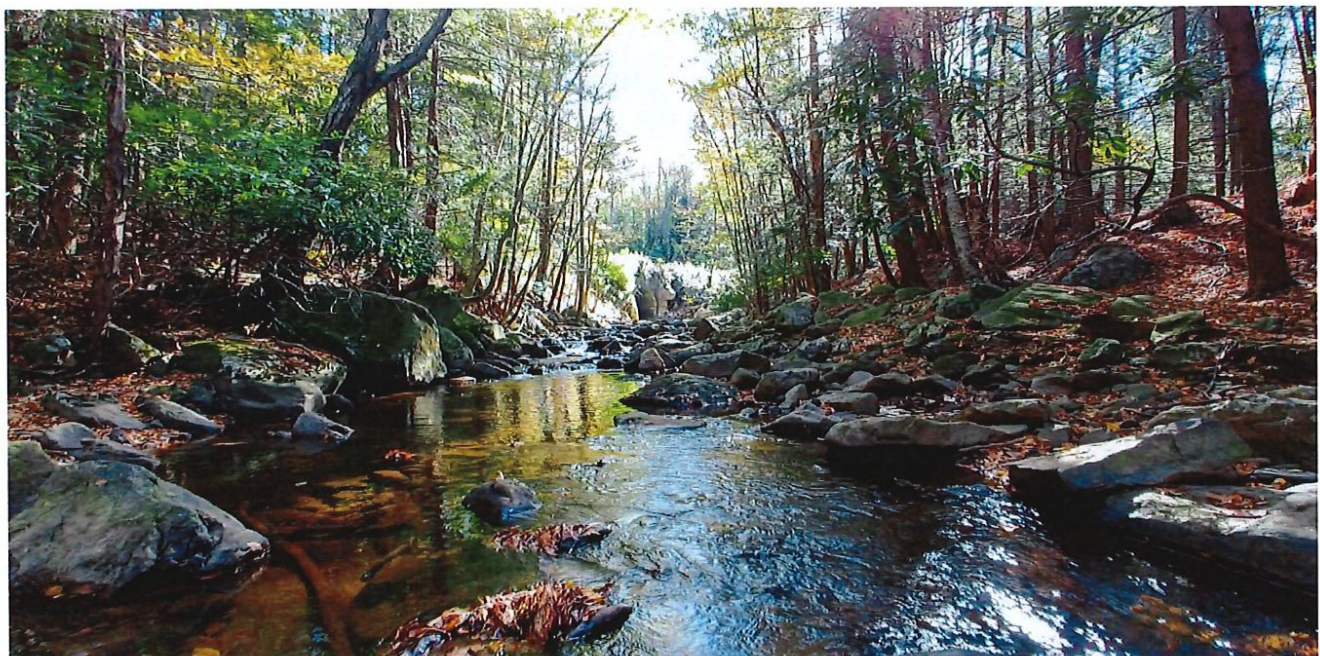
To celebrate God's love of Creation we set aside September 1-October 4, as the Season of Creation. A time we can focus our prayers and actions to bring our living into harmony with the world around us. We will do this in worship together. I would also encourage you to take your prayer time or devotional time outside. Read about Jesus ministry by the sea while sitting at the lake. The story of creation or the psalms feel different in the open air. When Moses encounters God at the burning bush, God commands Moses to remove his sandals because this is Holy Ground. Have you ever prayed bare foot outside?

One of my favorite chapels in the Cathedral of Creation was a place by a stream just off the Great Allegheny Passage bike trail. On a well-worn path over a small hill, you emerge in an oasis of peace. The confluence of Town Line Run and the Casselman River. The water tumbles down over rocks large and small, while the trees reach for the sky with canopies that almost touch. In the stream there is a large flat rock where I would rest in prayer, with water flowing all around. The noise of life is drowned out by the song of the stream, making space for grace to fill the hollow places in your heart. This is a thin place, not just a confluence of water but of Spirit. A place to set my heart in rhythm with God's heart. A place to breathe in peace once again.

What are your favorite chapels in the Cathedral of Creation? There are countless places of Holy Ground. Your chapel may be just outside your window, among the flowers, in the fields, under a tree, or on the water. Maybe it is a place you go on occasion or a place you return to in your memory that sparks joy. I encourage you to find those places of prayer in your life and experience the presence of God there in this and every season of life so that you may be rooted and grounded in the Love of God.

*May the Peace of Christ be with you always...*

Pastor Lee





# A Word from Fredsville's Council President



Hello Fredsville,

As we round out the vacation season, I began to think that life is really like a vacation. We have an agenda although don't always realize what that agenda will be. We encounter new places, new people, and have new adventures all the time. We have a limited time to do the things we want to do and go the places we want to go. We have abundant opportunities and missions to accomplish.

Think about how you feel when you are planning for a vacation or when you begin your first day on vacation. Are you excited to be going to see someone or go somewhere new. Are you relieved to get away from the typical day to day stress and routine. Are you anxious to explore new adventures. I believe when we are on vacation, we can be more tolerant, gracious, and giving. We are more open to sharing ourselves with others and experiencing new things.

Now sometimes we think we have the perfect plan for the day, but it does not end up quite like we expected. We have "off -road" experiences so to speak. We figure out that despite our lengthy planning we sometimes are not as in control as we think we are. We can still get lost and for some of us it is still hard to ask for directions. Think of those adventures or off-road experiences in your life as God's compass directing you back to the real mission and purpose, he has for you. So, the rainy days that ruined your beach plans or the missed exit that took you to the middle of nowhere or the necessities you forgot to pack are all part of life's lessons that redirect you to a better life. God has a bigger plan, and it may not be the road we set out to travel. Listen and follow him and he will take you on a vacation of a lifetime.

Enjoy this life you have been given and treasure each day. Share your gifts and talents with others and live like you are on vacation. Be happy, be gracious, and listen carefully to those God moments. Each day we are blessed with an abundance of grace and opportunities to share ourselves with others. God calls us to use the gifts he has given us to be kind and caring to one another every day not just the Vacation days.

Revel in the simple things in life. Explore the world around you. Be happy, be kind, be patient. We need to make the most of our lives as we don't get a second chance for yesterday. Build meaningful relationships, think of others first, and make those lasting impressions. I have heard it said that most regrets come from not doing the things we wanted to do or should have done rather than what we have done. So, enjoy this grand vacation we call life, do all that you were meant to do and keep God as your compass.

Happy travels and God Bless,

Brenda-



**Q & A**  
By Sue Green  
**Vocabulary Words**  
September 2023

*The reason that I started to write the Q & A Column in 2005 was because I was on Church Council and I had a lot of questions about the Lutheran Faith along with "how things were done" at Fredsville. (I had grown up in Reinbeck in the Presbyterian Church.) I still have a lot of questions which is my motivation for continuing to write this column. For this month's Q & A, I have collected several "words" that are often used at Fredsville but are often "words" that people do not know/understand.*

**Q: Why do we say "holy catholic church" when we say the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed? We aren't Catholic.**

**Apostle's Creed:** "... 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.

**Nicene Creed:** "... We believe in **one holy catholic** and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**A:** There is a difference between "holy catholic church" and the "Roman Catholic church". The word "catholic" (with a lower case "c") simply means "universal." So, when we say, "I believe in the holy catholic church," we are saying that we believe that **there is only "one" true church.**

Source: [www.livingwordlutheran.net](http://www.livingwordlutheran.net)

**Q: What is Pentecost Sunday? Why do Lutherans wear red on Pentecost Sunday?**

**A:** In the church year, the day of Pentecost is the culmination of the **50 days of the Easter celebration.** After showing himself to the disciples and after having ascended, **Jesus' followers received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.** Pentecost is the beginning of the Christian Church. That is why Pentecost is also called the birthday of the Church. The story of the Pentecost miracle tells us that God is present in the world again. Just as God was present in His son Jesus, God is now present through His Holy Spirit. You are invited to **wear red on Pentecost Sunday as a reminder of the fire of the Spirit.** Additionally, the sanctuary will be decorated in red symbolizing the tongues of flame (and by extension, the Holy Spirit) that appeared above those who were assembled on the original Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Sources: [www.livinglutheran.org](http://www.livinglutheran.org) [www.lutheranchurch.dk](http://www.lutheranchurch.dk) [www.tlcms.org](http://www.tlcms.org)

**Q: What is Reformation Sunday? What is its history?**

**A:** Reformation Day was traditionally celebrated on October 31st—on the same day as Halloween. Reformation Day is a Protestant holiday that commemorates the Reformation movement started by Martin Luther in the 16th century. For Lutherans, Reformation Day is celebrated **the Sunday before October 31**.

Here is the history of Reformation Day: Reformation Day began on Halloween of 1517. A German monk named Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church. These 95 Theses expressed his concerns over corruption found in the Catholic church. (One of his primary concerns was the church selling “indulgences” to people in order to release them from having to serve penitence for their sins. An act that he considered to be people trying to buy their way into heaven.) This act opened up a debate with religious scholars of the time that eventually led to the Protestant Reformation.

Martin Luther's actions caused serious religious and social ripples throughout society. His 95 Theses were widely spread thanks to the newly invented printing press. Within just a couple of weeks, copies of these theses spread all over Germany, and within 60 days, they were all over Europe. On January 3, 1521, Martin Luther and his followers were excommunicated by Pope Leo X. Just three months later, Martin Luther was called to the Diet of Worms to defend his beliefs before Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Before this deliberative assembly, Martin Luther was defiant and the emperor named him not only a heretic but also an outlaw. However, he would receive protection from German princes and Western Civilization would go on to be forever changed.

Source: [www.holidayscalendar.com/event/reformation-day/](http://www.holidayscalendar.com/event/reformation-day/)

**Q:What is All-Saints Sunday?**

**A:**All Saints' Sunday (in Danish *allehelgensdag*) falls on the **first Sunday of November**. It is a day when we commemorate those we have lost as well as the Christians who have lived before us and have testified to their Christian faith. Many churches have a tradition of inviting the relatives of those who have passed away during the year to a special commemoration service on All Saints' Sunday. The names of the parishioners who have passed away are read out loud and a candle is lit at the service.



Source: www. <https://www.lutheranchurch.dk/liturgy-and-worship/festivals-and-traditions/all-saints-day>

**Q:What does the word "Fredsville" mean?**

A:Fredsville means "**Peaceful Village**" in Danish. At one time, besides the church, parsonage, and auditorium, there was a school, blacksmith shop, creamery and general store in the community of Fredsville. The immigrants from Denmark sought to make a future for themselves in America. They settled on land that reminded them of Denmark.

<sup>th</sup>Source: History of Fredsville Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church 1871-1946 (75 Anniversary)

**Q:What were the early services like? When was the Fredsville congregation organized? Where was the original church?**

In the beginning, several people gathered in homes and Ole Jensen (Tricia Johnson's great, great grandfather) would read the gospel and give a sermon. They prayed the Lord's Prayer together and confessed their Christian faith. Hymns would be sung. All this would be spoken in Danish. The Fredsville congregation was organized in 1871 and called the "Fredsville Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church". The original church was situated in the cemetery. At that time, the individual gravestones were surrounded by flower gardens and cozy nooks - just like they were kept in Denmark.

<sup>th</sup>Source: History of Fredsville Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church 1871-1946 (75 Anniversary)

*If you have questions about other vocabulary words pertaining to our worship services at Fredsville, let me know. I would be glad to write a "Part II" Vocabulary Words" Q & A. ☐*





# SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October. ...Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.



**A Mighty River**  
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023



2023

# SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER



## **Creator of All,**

From your communion of love life sprung forth like a mighty river  
and the whole cosmos came into being.

On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made flesh and  
went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice  
for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us  
into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to  
the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke  
with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not  
safeguarding the conditions for life.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we  
grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and  
livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at  
the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have  
inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that  
calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation.  
Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator  
Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into  
all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and  
peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all  
creatures around us, and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the  
many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may  
become a mighty river all over the Earth.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all  
creation, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**



## September 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article

### Leave a Legacy Gift

LSI has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for over 150 years. During this time, we've created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

You can celebrate your lifetime through a legacy gift, to ensure LSI can continue to provide lifesaving services for those in need. Many of our faithful donors want their gifts to continue after their lifetime, and have elected to leave a legacy through LSI's foundation or the ELCA foundation.

Planned gifts to LSI help to create a firm foundation for our ministry and contribute more than \$400,000 each year.

Thanks to the generous compassion of individual donors, congregations such as yours, and our ministry partners at the three synods of the ELCA, we can be confident LSI will be here to meet the changing needs of Iowans for years to come.

### You Can Make a Lasting Impact

A longtime supporter of LSI turned an appreciated real estate asset into a charitable remainder unitrust agreement with the ELCA foundation. Because of this agreement, they will receive income from the trust for the remainder of their two lives, and subsequently to their two adult children for a twenty-year term. According to the actuarial tables, this gift will finally terminate in about forty years, leaving a very strong and greatly appreciated impact on LSI's future.

Another LSI donor elected to share their investment by directing a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly to LSI. The donor used this contribution to match new or increased gifts during the annual matching gift campaign.

We ask you to consider how you can make a lasting impact and leave a legacy. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, go to [LSIowa.org/leave-a-legacy/](https://LSIowa.org/leave-a-legacy/) or contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.*

*LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America).*

*We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations.*

*Learn more at [LSIowa.org](https://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*