

Season of Creation  
Storm  
September 21, 2025

*Numbered hymns and page numbers will be found in the cranberry hymnal. The Psalms are found in the front section of the hymnal, after the last red tabs.*

Prelude

Welcome

Ring of the Bells

Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** "Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sin against God, against our neighbor, and against creation."

***Silence for personal reflection***

**P:** "Gracious God:

**C:** "We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves; and we have not loved all creation with the love of our Creator. We have prioritized convenience over compassion, used Earth's resources without regard for all your creatures, and failed to listen to the cries of the poor and the vulnerable among us and throughout your world. We have left undone the work you call us to do. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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:** "Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of grace and mercy, we have peace with God through Christ Jesus. 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."

C: Amen.

Hymn: *Earth and All Stars*

#731

Greeting:

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*Kyrie*

p. 147

*Hymn of Praise*

Prayer of the Day:

**Eternal God, your Son Jesus calmed the wind and the waves with a word. By your mighty power, bring peace to the storms in our world, in our communities, and in our hearts. Strengthen our faith in the face of fear, and inspire us to become instruments of your peace and reconciliation in all creation. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN**

First Reading: Job 28: 20-27

Connie

Engblom

Psalms Hymn: *How Great Thou Art*

#856

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 21-31

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia!*

p. 151

Gospel: Luke 8: 22-25

Sermon

Mike Miles

Hymn: *That Cause Can Never Be Lost or Stayed*

(A World of Song)

**Installation and Commissioning Service for the Interim Ministry Team**

Bishop: Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of this community and for the leaders you have called to serve among us in this season of transition. We ask that you bless Shawn, Christy, and Liz as they embark on this journey of faith and service. Give them wisdom, strength, and courage as they guide us in your mission. Help us, your people, to support them in love and unity, that together we may grow in faith and proclaim your Gospel. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Call to the Interim Ministry Team

Bishop:

Shawn, as the Interim Pastor, you are called to bring rostered ELCA congregational leadership in worship and administering the sacraments, and pastorally caring for the congregation.

Christy, as the Parish Associate, you are called to support the preaching ministry, assisting in nurturing the faith of this congregation through preaching and empowering lay preachers who will bring the Word to the community. You are called to help support and uphold the community building at West Denmark

Liz, as the Parish Administrator, you are called to manage the resources of this church with integrity and wisdom, ensuring that our ministry continues to flourish.

Do you commit to serve faithfully in your respective roles and to guide this congregation with love and compassion?

Shawn, Christy, Liz: I do, by the grace of God.

Covenanting with the Congregation

Bishop:

Now, I ask the congregation to rise as you will enter into a covenant of ministry with your interim leaders.

**Congregation: We stand ready to follow you in faith and commitment.**

Bishop: Will you, the congregation of West Denmark support Shawn, Christy, and Liz in their ministry, praying for them, encouraging them, and participating fully in the life of this church during this interim period?

**Congregation: We will, with God's help.**

Installation of the Interim Ministry Team

Welcome to

West Denmark Lutheran Church

September 21, 2025



#### Statement of Welcome

West Denmark is a safe place to worship, study, and build relationships with God and others, regardless of race, creed, economics, cultural background or sexual orientation or identity. **We're glad you've come!**

Bishop:

In the name of the Church, I install you, Shawn, as the Interim Pastor, Christy as the Parish Associate, and Liz as the Parish Administrator of West Denmark Lutheran Church. May the Holy Spirit empower you to lead this congregation in its mission to proclaim the Gospel and serve one another in love.

Prayers of Intercession Anne McKee

Peace

Offering

Offertory

Doxology: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* #885

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

Lord's Prayer (*Begin with Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father*) p. 154

Communion

Communion Hymn *As the Grains of Wheat* #465

Post-Communion Blessing

Benediction

Sending Hymn: *Go My Children, With My Blessing* #543

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

#### Our Ministry Team

Rev. Shawn Mai, Interim Pastor Christy Wetzig, Interim Parish Associate  
Liz Dodge, Church Administrator

#### Our Music Team

Christine Johansen, Pianist Charles Parsons, Organist  
Harry Johansen, Cantor and Choir Director

We are honored to welcome Bishop Martin Halom and his trumpet to our worship service today!

#### CALENDAR

Today: Mindfulness Meditation in balcony, 8:30 am  
Sunday School, 9:00 am  
Worship, 10 am  
Fellowship, 11 am  
Monday: Men's Breakfast, Tin Shed, 7:30 am  
Women's Breakfast, Tin Shed, 10:00 am  
Women's AA Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Tuesday: Church Council Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Wednesday: OFJ Orientation, Luck Lutheran, 6:30 pm  
Confirmation Parents' Orientation, Luck Lutheran, 7:00 pm  
Choir Practice, 7:00 pm  
Thursday: Encore Group, 5:30 pm  
Saturday: AA meeting 9am  
Community Potluck in fellowship area, 5:00 pm  
Next Week:  
Sunday: Mindfulness Meditation, 8:30 am  
Sunday School, 9:00 am  
Worship 10am  
Fellowship 11am

#### Announcements

The Potluck Dinner originally scheduled for Friday, September 26 has been changed to Saturday, September 27 to avoid conflict with the Methodist Swiss steak dinner.

All youth are invited to join at Luck Lutheran on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm for Our Faith Journey (OFJ). An orientation meeting will take place this week. Parents of those beginning the confirmation process are invited to an orientation at 7:00 pm on Wednesday at Luck Lutheran.

The next meeting of the **Encore group** will take place in the church on **Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm**. Please bring a bag dinner if you wish. The topic of the next meeting is how our spiritual journeys have changed / are changing over time. We hope everyone will be willing to share a bit about either how we got to where we are now or if/how we envision our spiritual practices may change as we grow older. Please take “spiritual journey” and “spiritual practices” to mean what is most comfortable/relatable to you: relationship to God or to the Divine/Sacred, church or sangha community involvement, way of relating to the Christ-light within us, or however you want to approach spirituality. We hope our circle of conversation has grown safe enough over the past two months that everyone can share, trusting that we are getting to know each other, not judging each other in any way. Because group attendance has been good, if there is a large number of attendees on September 25<sup>th</sup> we will break into 2 or 3 smaller groups. Please share this invitation and information with others who might be interested in attending.

The WDLG book discussion group, which this year will meet via zoom at 11 AM on the third Wednesday of every other month, has chosen a book for our next meeting on October 15. This is Wendell Berry's classic statement, *The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture*. In the on-deck circle for December 17 is Trevor Noah's memoir, *Born a Crime*. Our group practice is for everyone to access the books in whatever way that seems best to them. If you want on or off the group email list, which is where among other things the zoom link for the meeting is circulated, please let Mark know at [mhulseth@gmail.com](mailto:mhulseth@gmail.com).

### Music Notes

*Earth and All Stars* is one of several hymns written by Pastor Herbert Brokering (1926-2009), a Lutheran pastor who served the church in many ways and wrote over forty books as well as several hymns. The tune EARTH AND ALL STARS was composed by David N. Johnson (1922-1987), formerly music department chair at St. Olaf College and composer of many hymn tunes, hymn preludes, and harmonizations. He taught at several other colleges

and was organist at Syracuse University and Trinity Episcopal Church in Phoenix, and wrote guides for the teaching of organ.

*How Great Thou Art* has a complicated history. The initial hymn, *O Store Gud* (O Mighty God), was written in Swedish by Carl Boberg (1859-1940), a member of the Swedish Covenant Church who, in addition to serving in the Swedish Parliament, wrote many hymns and edited Covenant hymnals. It was set to the Swedish folk tune which now bears the same name (O STORE GUD). In 1931, Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989) and his wife, Plymouth Brethren missionaries, were evangelizing in the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine when they heard it sung in Russian (itself a translation from German). Hine made the rather free translation we know today, adding a couple of verses of his own, and finally published it in 1949. As sung by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows, it was a highlight of Billy Graham's evangelical Crusades. It is said, on the basis of numerous surveys, to be either the first or second most popular hymn in both the United States and the United Kingdom.

*That Cause Can Never Be Lost or Stayed* was originally written in Danish by Kristian Østergaard (1855-1931), a Danish-American Lutheran pastor and author of hymns and novels. He served several churches in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (the “holy Danes”, but is buried in the cemetery in Tyler, Minnesota. J.C. Aaberg (1877-1920), another Danish-American Lutheran pastor in the “happy Danes” (American Evangelical Lutheran Church), translated many favorite Danish hymns into English. The tune ØSTERGAARD was composed by Jorgen Nellemann, about whom no information can be found.

Marty Haugen (1950-) has written many hymns and liturgical music, including both text and tune for *As the Grains of Wheat*. He has served churches from Roman Catholic to United Church of Christ and was composer-in-residence at Holden Village.

The sending hymn *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* was written by Jaroslav Vajda (1919-2008), the son of Slovak immigrants who was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1944. He served parishes, edited Lutheran periodicals, and worked at Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis; he wrote poetry, hymns, and carols throughout his life, and translated much Slovak literature. AR HYD Y NOS is familiar as the Welsh lullaby *All Through the Night*. A Welsh folk melody, it was first published in 1784 in *Musical and Poetical Relics of the Welsh Bards*.