

Christ Lutheran Church
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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

THE WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 AM In-Person & Zoom

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

WELCOME

Announcements & Prelude

*** A Call to Worship**

P: We appear to be fools, Almighty God--fools bearing crosses ...

C: instruments of torture ... cruel machines of death ...

P: following a leader with a cross--

**C: a leader who bids us abandon everything the world calls valuable--
possessions and relationships, pride and success.**

P: But we have been let in on the wisdom of our actions--

C: for worldly ways are often foolish.

P: And we are confident in the One who leads--

C: for he has traveled from death to life.

P: We know the cost of this discipleship,

C: even as we are confident in its reward. We follow, O God.

P: Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now ...

C: and forever. Amen.

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: 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.

P: 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!

C: Amen.

* **Gathering Hymn 880**

“O God beyond All Praising”

* Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

* Gloria

(Setting 6 – Page 167)

Refrain S 167

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain S 167

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

* Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalms 1*

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel [|] of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats [|] of the scornful!
² **Their delight is in the law [|] of the LORD,**
and they meditate on God’s teaching [|] day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither; everything they ¹ do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so ¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind ¹ blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way ¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall ¹ be destroyed.**

Second Lesson: *Philemon 1-21*

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am

sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation

(Setting 6 – Page 171)

S 171a



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel: *Luke 14:25-33*

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Swanson

Hymn 798

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

* 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.**

The Prayer of the Church

* Sharing of the Peace of the Lord

We Offer Our Gifts to the Lord
Anthem

Organ Voluntary

* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* The Offertory

Hymn

“Bring a Gift of Love”--Mary Kay Bottens

Bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love today.

Bring an offering to our Lord and King, tell the world he is the Way!

Bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love today.

In this quiet hour of worship, bring a gift of love.

* Offertory Prayer

L: 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 Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed rightand join their unending hymn:

(Holy, Holy Holy)

(Setting 6 – Page 173)

S 173

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

* The Words of Institution

* The Lord's Prayer

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.

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

(Setting 6 – Page 174)

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.

Distribution of the Sacrament

* Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

* The Prayer after Communion

L: 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.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **Sending Hymn 810**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

* **Postlude**

In Bread and Wine our Lord Jesus meets us and we receive His Body and Blood given and shed for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love, forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us today and are a baptized Christian and desire to commune, please do come to the table of the Lord. Children and youth who have not received instruction in the meaning of the Sacrament are cordially invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please come toward as directed by ushers by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

Lectors for our Services

This Sunday, Sept 7 – Devon Swanson

Wednesday, Sept 10 – Rae Ann Smith

Next Sunday, Sept.14 – Gary Llewellyn

Next Wednesday, Sept 17 – Paul Chiarenza

Sept Ushers – Jeff Smith, Barb Simmons

Organist – Corinna Hilderbrand

A/V – Kathy Dave, Joyce

The Altar Flowers has been given to the glory of God by Linda McCagh.

The Bulletins and Communion Bread has been given to the glory of God in memory of Jim Martin on his 86th birthday by Lydia.

The Bulletins and Communion Bread has been given to the glory of God in honor of family birthdays by Rae Ann & Jeff Smith.

The September Newsletter has been given to the glory of God in memory of parents, Kermit & Thelma Failingler by Ray & Dianne Short.

We have a hearing assistance system in the sanctuary. If you are having problems hearing our service, please ask the usher for a receiver.

Hope that you have picked up your name tags from the board in the main entrance. They are in alphabetical order. Please return to the board when leaving. Thanks

Church Council has scheduled a **Congregational meeting for Sunday, September 21** following worship, at which time *the 2024 Financial Books can be closed, and we can update the congregation on the sale of our property.* Please plan to attend.

Christ Lutheran Church, with the help of community members, is building a memorial garden for use by our community for remembering loved ones, or just quiet contemplation and connection with nature. It will consist of a bench for resting, a memorial stone for experiencing artistic beauty, a tree (weeping redbud) for experiencing natural beauty, and a labyrinth for centering thoughts. It joins with our meadow meander - already developed - for (guess what!) connecting with the beauty of nature through all five senses, and our community pantry garden and orchard that provides fresh produce along with companionship for neighbors who need it. **If you're into rocks, or puzzling, join us to build Tuesday mornings 7-9am. Or come to visit anytime.** Easy access is from Martz Lane behind the church - just park on the grass.

Thanks to everyone who has kept the donations coming for the LaVale Food Pantry! For the month of September, we'd like to encourage you to donate **canned tuna**. We also welcome any other unopened and unexpired non-perishable food items.

This week –

This Sunday –Worship - 10:00am followed by Adult Sunday School

Monday – Church Council – 6:30pm

Tuesday – Garden labyrinth – 7-9am

Wednesday – Worship Service – 6:30pm

Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals – 7:30pm

Thursday – Blood Drive – 12:30-6:00pm

Friday – Diane's Music classes, Lady Birds – 11:00am

Saturday – Garden – 11:00am – Seed saving how to

Next Sunday, Worship – 10:00am followed by Adult Sunday School

Church Yard Sale – Fundraising is planning a **Christmas Yard sale** on Friday, October 31st and Saturday, Nov 1st from 8-12pm. **We need Christmas decorations, ornaments or anything Christmas for this sale.** You may bring to church starting on Sunday, October 26th. Thanks again!

CLC Archival Items & Artifacts - To help us preserve and manage our collection with care, please follow these guidelines when interacting with the CLC Archives Room:

- Donating or Borrowing: Kindly sign the designated log sheet when donating or borrowing any items or artifacts.
- Dropping Off or Returning: Please place all items on the log sheet table so our archives team can properly process and store them.

Your cooperation ensures the integrity and organization of our archives—thank you for being part of it! The CLC Archives Team

Stock the Shelves for Mission and Ministry - Our Church Council at our June meeting decided to help our 2025 budget.

Some of the items needed are:

- **AA, AAA and 9V size batteries**
- **dishwashing liquid and paper towels**
- **cleaning supplies, bleach, toilet bowl cleaners etc.**
- **white copier paper: (reg., legal or ledger), colored paper and postage stamps**
- **napkins, paper plates, bowls and cups**
- **Baggies (large and small), aluminum foil and clear wrap**
- **toilet paper, disinfectant wipes & sprays, window cleaners, hand sanitizers**

We thank you for your help in any small way. **We will be collecting items through the month of September.** Devotions may be placed on the table in the main narthex.

Thanks

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – August 31, 2025

Attendance	In-Person 10:00am =	47	Adult SCS =	7
	Zoom 10:00am =	9		
Wed. Sept 3	In-Person 6:30pm =	6		
	Zoom 6:30pm =	2		

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2025

Received	=	\$4,511.00
Needed weekly	=	<u>4,044.04</u>
		455.96

BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-JULY 2025

Actual Income	=	\$119,047.03
Actual Expenses	=	(<u>126,772.26</u>)
		(\$ 7,725.23)

PRAYER LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

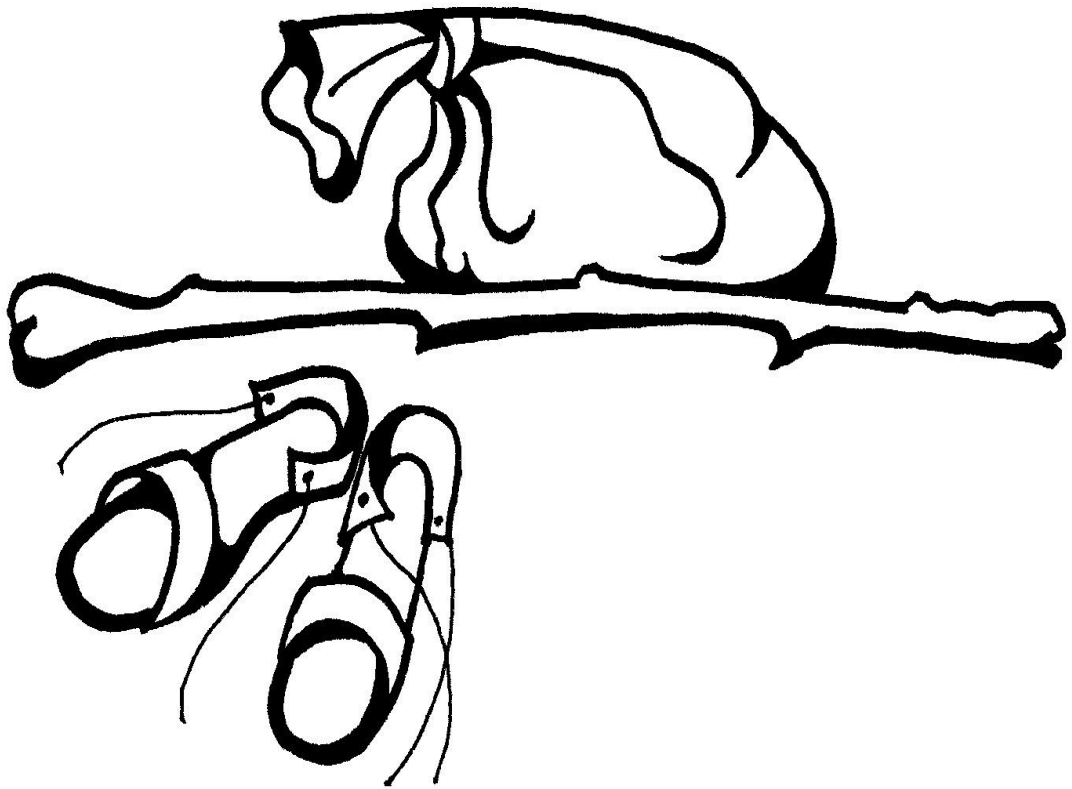
Jack Zealand
Bill & MarySue Crawford
Gail Dawson
Jane Miller
Gary Llewellyn
Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
Barbara Martin
Patty Wilson
Ed Havens
Dianne Short
Clem Dawson
Dave & Lisa Ahern
Kim Shoemaker
Fay Crawford
David LaBuda
Rosey & Becky McIntyre
Jonathan and Danielle Ahern
Tammy Faulkner
Pam & Dave Judy
David Tibbetts
Joyce DeMonbrun
Kathy Powell
Sharon McKenzie
Mary Lou Rowles
Donna Yaider
Laura Murray
Anna Bruck

PRAYER RECIPIENT

Christina Puffinburger	<i>Requested by</i> Elwood & Janet Glass
Raymond Garthwait, Stephen Overtoom	Gail Dawson
Charles Johnson, Barbara Williams	Sharon M
Joe Kunsman, Linda Nines, Ellen Hill	Mitzie & Jerry
Brittney Meyers, Talot Omar, Terry Baker	Mitzie & Jerry
Nathan Winters	Dianne Short
Charlotte & Ed Troutman, Arlene Simmons.	Amy, Jacie Fairall Barb Simmons
Carl Chiarenza, Karen Mackert	Paul & Ruth C
Elise & Henry Jack Balber	Jack Zealand
Trina, Trinity, Asia, Faith	Debbie & Pam
Cheryl Trusler	Joyce D
Cheri Bielen	Jane Miller
Baby Whetzel, Kevin Mistretta, Carolyn Farr, Kendra Morriss, Paula Rose	Diane
Dan Moore, Graham Tower, Lisa Storm, Jaime Pletcher, Karen Ford	Diane K
Richard Clark, Zachary Sutterfield, Alexis Smith	Anne DeVaughn
Diane Davis, Nancy Smith, James Flynn	Antoinette Royster
Joy Kroeger-Mappes Carmen and Lance Jackson	Antoinette Royster
Bob Aman, Mary Jane Robertson	Shirley & Jim Smith
Gretchen Burke	Val & Gary Llewellyn
Sally, Roger, James Tibbets	Dave Tibbetts
Andy Cocco	John Cocco
Marie Turnbull, Steven Suzindlak, Taylor Neumann	Lita Havens
Dan Carr, Matt Doman	Steven Hansrote
Lois Shunk	Sherry T
Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane	Kristan Fazenbaker
Mary Lou Dorsey	Trina Firey
Vic Werner	Barbara Martin
Belinda Keller	Linda McCagh
Madeline Lopes	Al James
Barbara Blough	Janice & Dave LaBuda
Galen Dean Krepps	Lisa Ahern
Jared McGensie, Stefan Twigg, Chris Twigg	Patty Wilson and Rosey

Please keep us updated

- all people affected by the wildfires and other disasters
- all people of the Ukraine and all affected by the war
- all elected officials
- those who serve in our nation's armed forces including Rick Rounds, Tom Forrest



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025