



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome

Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

LSB 584

- 1 **Faith and truth and life bestowing,
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing,
Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, your Word receiving,
Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,
Shallow earth or stony ground.**

- 2 **May the Spirit’s pow’r unceasing
Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing,
Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold your glory
Give us ears to hear your Word.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father, of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Often, we are painfully aware that our lives, our relationships, our bodies, and our world are falling apart.
- C** **“The creation was subjected to frustration...in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the**

freedom and glory of the children of God.” (*Romans 8:20-21*)

- P** The entire world experiences this deep sense that all is not well.
- C** **“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”** (*Romans 8:22*)
- P** Being in Christ does not exclude us from this pain and malaise.
- C** **“Not only so, but we ourselves who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.”** (*Romans 8:23*)
- P** We confess the sins we commit in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Lord, meet us with your forgiveness, your healing, and the hope of the redemption of our lives.

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

- P** Though we still groan waiting for God to fulfill his promise, we live in a sure and certain hope that God is opening a future where all groans are silenced. In the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have the assurance that God has made peace with the world and with us, and that we will rise from death to be heirs of God’s restored creation. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Worship the Lord in faith in his healing work now and hope in his future redemption.
- C** **Amen! Thanks be to God!**

Sharing of the Peace

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** We share Christ's peace with one another.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord.
- C** **Amen**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶“This is what the LORD says—

Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:

I am the first and I am the last;

apart from me there is no God.

⁷ Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me

what has happened since I established my ancient people,

and what is yet to come—

yes, let them foretell what will come.

⁸ Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?

No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
The Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24-34-43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵ So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth in parables,

I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

LSB 577

1 **Almighty God, your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend
And righteous fruits abound.**

2 **Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,**

**But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.**

**3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.**

**4 So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.**

Homily

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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. Amen.**

Sit

Prayers of the Church

Presentation of the Offering

Stand

Preface

- 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 him thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

LSB 208

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

The Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

- C** **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Sit

Distribution

We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW 680 (tune LSB 915)

- 1** **We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.**

Who sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes, and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

2 You are the Maker of all things near and far,
You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
Much more to us, your children, you give us our daily bread.

3 We thank you, our Creator, for all things bright and good,
The seed-time, and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts we have to offer for all your love imparts,
But what you most would treasure, our humble, thankful hearts.

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

LSB 827

1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?

2 Some take up his task in morning,
To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday,
Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting,
Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty
That God’s Word so richly yields.

3 For as rain and snow from heaven
Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower,
Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth his promise,
Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to him returning,
Bearing fruit with great increase.

4 Harken to the Lord whose coming
Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with his angelic reapers
He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest;
Soon the time for work shall cease.

Then the souls his grace has garnered
Shall enjoy his Sabbath peace.

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

LSB 830

- 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere his creatures call
To his heav'nly banquet hall.
- 2 Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How his own dear Son he gave
Us from sin and death to save.
- 3 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave himself as sacrifice.
- 4 Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.
- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!
- 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See your light and heed your call.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

LSB 641 (tune 846)

*ref You satisfy the hungry heart
With gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
The bread of life to eat.*

- 1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
They know and heed his voice;
So when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
We follow and rejoice. *Refrain*
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to you
Our praise and gratitude

That you should count us worthy, Lord,
To share this heav'nly food. *Refrain*

- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
Our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain*
- 4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain*
- 5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name
In truth and charity. *Refrain*

Stand

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

On What Has Now Been Sown

LSB 921

- 1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do thou in grace the harvest raise,
And thou alone shalt have the praise!
- 2 To thee our wants are known,
From thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to thy Word a blessing give.
- 3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before thee here,
May meet together thus
When thou and thine appear
And follow thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Announcements

Sending

Serving in worship today

July 23, 2023

Pastor:

Jason Neel

Elder:

Kevin Zimmerman

Phil Hagel

Reader:

Renee Chambard

Usher:

Sue Anderson

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Louella Garland 7/23, Pat McCarty 7/23, Dalton Degler 7/24, Marlene Birkholz 7/24, Mark Endorf 7/27, Tim Endorf 7/27, and Tracy Carlson 7/28.

Celebrating Baptisms: Steve Johnson 7/26, Jan Kuehl 7/27, and Peggy Peterson 7/29.

Celebrating Anniversaries: Richard and Beth Gerard 7/23.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Christian Faith Class
	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Monday	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Tuesday	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Prayer
	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Christian Faith Class

Notes of Information:

Thrivent Choice Dollars: If you are eligible, you can specifically choose an organization, such as Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church. Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year. To direct those dollars, log onto <http://www.thrivent.com>.

Under **What We Offer**, choose the **Generosity** tab. Then choose **Choice Dollars**.

VBS begins tonight! Please pray for our Vacation Bible School that is being held this week. Thank you to all our volunteers and parents who make VBS happen each year. Check out the fellowship hall for a “Stellar” out of this world experience! If you have a child in your world who would like to join us, we still have room. You can register at the door tonight!

Change in Book Club for July: Due to VBS this week, Book Club will meet next Monday, July 31st at 7 pm.

Bluegrass Sunday is coming! If you are interested in being a part of the choir for Bluegrass Sunday connect with John. He is currently putting together the music packets. Save the date! Bluegrass Sunday will be held August 27th at 9 am. If you have questions, please see John for details.

Shredright4Good Youth Fundraiser: Every day, America uses enough paper to wrap around the earth 20 times! Why not put some of that paper to work raising funds for Spirit of Christ’s Youth while protecting the environment and your identity. The Youth have two locked containers here at church to collect confidential paper. Shredright4Good will pick it up to shred and turn it to recycled paper products. Nice and easy, just bring in your freewill offering with your paper. Start protecting your identity, the environment and building up the Youth of Spirit of Christ. We thank you for your support.

Women’s Ministry: Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a SOC Women’s Ministry event to be held **Saturday, Sep 30** with a guest speaker connecting spiritual, emotional and physical health. We will be inviting ladies from neighboring congregations to join us and can use your help! If you would like to assist in the advertising, registration, or name tags, please contact Angie Hagel at pahagel@usfamily.net. If you would like to help plan and/or serve a healthy meal, help plan the day’s activities, or assist with other aspects of the event, please contact Linda Schwanbeck, Linda McCarty, or Raelene Burmeister.

Envelope Giving FYI: Gifts given via envelope and marked "Improvement" will go into the 2023 Building Improvement Project Fund. There is also a designated category in Vanco if you prefer to give electronically.

Activity Bags Available: There are activity bags for young children located at the back of the sanctuary. We would like to thank Beth Gerard and Diane Weinhold for refreshing the bags.

Spirit of Christ Book Club: Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

July 31 The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

August 28 The Second Life of Mirelle West by Amanda Skenandore

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager at 763-434-9652.

NACE: North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf needs personal hygiene, and diapers for both adults and children. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them into the Narthex and place them in the box. Toni Peterson 763-434-5665

LWML Mission Byte: Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment — Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000 Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) can reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness with the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired. God is Mighty to provide!

Monthly 1% Mission Outreach: As God's Stewards, we are called to serve. A great way to do this is to apply for the Monthly 1% Mission Outreach offering. Simply fill out a request form, state your outreach ministry, and how the funds will be used. Then return your request to the Stewardship Board. Some past activities have included homeless kits, backpacks for World Relief, diaper kits, shopping for food shelf items, and holiday baskets for families. Be creative! Our Lord will use the talents and gifts he has given you to bless others'.

Nursery: The nursery is open, and the sound is working. If you have a restless child, please feel free to use this space.

Sermons and bulletins posted online: Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at www.spiritofchristhamlake.org.

Offerings via Give+: Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at soclc.org to sign up or learn more.

Change in Average Weekly Offering: Due to a mistake involving Thrivent, our average weekly offering has been corrected. Currently we are averaging \$6387 per week. We need \$6662 to meet our 2023 workplan.

Average Weekly Offering	\$6387
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6662

**Readings for next week:
I Kings 3:5-12, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**



Register for Vacation Bible School and give the QR code you your friends and neighbors so that they can join in our intergalactic fun this summer! Sunday July 23, 2023, to Thursday July 27, 2023, from 6 PM to 8 PM. Free!





SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd
Ham Lake, MN 55304
www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

Church Office: 763-755-7234

Pastor Jason Neel: soclcpastor@gmail.com

Ministers: All Members

Music Director

John Peterson: carsinger@aol.com

Office e-mail: secretary@soclc.org

Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst): Sd_hurst@yahoo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>