



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 30, 2023

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome

Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten

LSB 914 tune 924

- 1 **Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten**
Radiance of the Father's face,
Word made flesh, who lived among us
Full of truth and full of grace,
Shine upon our human darkness;
Pierce the night that shrouds our race.

- 2 **Word eternal, through your being**
God created all we see,
When the empty spaces echoed
With the Father's "Let there be . . ."
Light and life burst from the glorious
Power of your majesty!

- 3 **Still your brooding Spirit hovers**
Over chaos, dark and deep,
Calling out with invitation:
"Rise, awaken from your sleep;
Christ the Lord will shine upon you
And from death your soul shall keep."

- 4 **Come, Lord Jesus, by your Spirit**
In our hearts your work begin,
Bring the healing restoration
Of your image lost by sin;
From your fullness all receiving
Grace on grace, new life within!

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 Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son, you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Sit

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶ Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷ “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble

or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

**1 On my heart imprint your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation!**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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

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

³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

LSB 746 tune 478

- 1 Through Jesus' blood and merit
I am at peace with God.
What, then, can daunt my spirit,
However dark my road?
My courage shall not fail me,
For God is on my side;
Though hell itself assail me,
Its rage I may deride.

- 2 There's nothing that can sever
From this great love of God;
No want, no pain whatever,
No famine, peril, flood.
Though thousand foes surround me,
For slaughter mark his sheep,
They never shall confound me,
The vict'ry I shall reap.

- 3 For neither life's temptation
Nor death's most trying hour
Nor angels of high station
Nor any other pow'r
Nor things that now are present
Nor things that are to come
Nor height, however pleasant,
Nor darkest depths of gloom

- 4 Nor any creature ever
Shall from the love of God
This ransomed sinner sever;
For in my Savior's blood
This love has its foundation;
God hears my faithful prayer
And long before creation
Named me his child and heir.

Homily

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

LSB 554

- 1 O Jesus, King most wonderful!
O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable,
In whom all joys are found:
- 2 When once you visit darkened hearts,
Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs,
Then kindles love divine.
- 3 O Jesus, light of all below,
The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
All that we can desire:

4 May ev'ry heart confess your name,
Forever you adore,
And, seeking you, itself inflame
To seek you more and more!

5 Oh, may our tongues forever bless,
May we love you alone
And ever in our lives express
The image of your own!

Jesus Loves Me

LSB 588

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
They are weak, but he is strong. *Refrain*

ref Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin,
Lets his little child come in. *Refrain*

Thy, Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619

1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior,
Thy blood which thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed. *Refrain*

ref Lord, may thy body and thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 With thee, Lord, I am now united;
I live in thee and thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted
It finds its only joy in thee. *Refrain*

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise. *Refrain*

4 Though death may threaten with disaster,
It cannot rob me of my cheer;

For he who is of death the master
With aid and comfort e'er is near. *Refrain*

- 5 My heart has now become thy dwelling,
O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain*

Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

LSB 737

- 1 Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,
A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything,
Your portion shall remain.
- 2 He is your treasure, he your joy,
Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy,
Your shield and great reward.
- 3 Why spend the day in blank despair,
In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care;
He makes your burdens light.
- 4 Did not his love and truth and pow'r
Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did he not in threat'ning hour
Turn dreaded ills away?
- 5 He only will with patience chide,
His rod falls gently down;
And all your sins he casts aside
In ocean depths to drown.
- 6 His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that his counsels may ordain
A blessed ending makes.
- 7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
And trust his guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand
Here and in heav'n above.

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.

O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near

LSB 921tune 461

- 1 O gracious Lord, with love draw near
To these, your children gathered here;
The Spirit's gift in them renew:
The gift of faith that clings to you.
- 2 Sustain the work you have begun
In these united to your Son,
For in that pure baptismal flood
They have been cleansed by Jesus' blood.
- 3 Deliver them from ev'ry wile,
From all that would their hearts beguile,
From worldly ways and Satan's lies,
That they may not your Word despise.
- 4 Lord, keep them firm in their intent
To you, your Word and Sacrament.
O make them bold, their faith to share
And make them strong, each cross to bear.
- 5 O Father, grant that by your grace
They may your will each day embrace;
With fruits of faith their lives now bless,
Till they at death your name confess.
- 6 Then robed in white before your throne,
Your holy saints, by you foreknown—
Predestined, called, and justified,
Shall, crowned in light, be glorified.

Announcements

Sending

Serving in worship today

July 30, 2023

Pastor:

Jason Neel

Elder:

Phil Marquardt
Carl Schwanbeck

Reader:

Peggy Peterson

Usher:

Jan Fuerst

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Dan Mathiason 8/1, Nancy Tepley 8/1, Alex Anderson 8/5 and Leona Stockwell 8/5.

Celebrating Baptisms: Peggy Peterson 7/30, Carol Dangers 8/1, Diane Weinhold 8/1, Isaac Jauch 8/1, Marlene Birkholz 8/1, and Raelene Burmeister 8/1.

Celebrating Anniversaries: Jason and Sara Neel 8/3.

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
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Tuesday	10:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Evangelism Board Meeting
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study

Notes of Information:

Thank You! Thank you to all the volunteers and families this week who helped make VBS a success!

Women's Bible Study and Women's Ministry meeting: Please join us for the Women's bible at 10:30 am with a meeting for Women's ministry to follow. If you would like to stay for the meeting after bible study, feel free to bring a bag lunch.

LCEF Loan update: Thank you to all who were moved by God to give to the 2023 Building Project, due to the generous giving we were able to lower our overall borrowing amount by \$65,000. Thanks be to God! The total loan amount will be around \$260,000. The loan is expected to be signed the first week of August and work will begin after the loan is finalized.

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**.

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

Bluegrass Sunday is coming! Save the date! Bluegrass Sunday will be held August 27th at 9 am. We challenge each family to invite at least one friend or neighbor to join us! Due to the building improvements, Bluegrass will be held indoors this year.

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: July 30th **2. Disaster Response Team — Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX \$50,000** Trinity Lutheran Church Disaster Response Team (TLC DRT) in Tyler, Texas, answers the call to serve our neighbors in need by ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of people affected by severe storms such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. This grant will allow repair and replacement of necessary equipment so the team can continue to be Christ's hands and feet and share God's love to people affected by disasters.

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:

Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21



Dear Beth and members of Spirit of Christ,

On behalf of HOPE 4 Youth, I wanted to express our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of 32 cases of water on July 18, 2023 to our organization. Your support is truly making a difference in the lives of youth experiencing homelessness.

At HOPE 4 Youth, our mission is to provide pathways to end youth homelessness. Through our one-on-one case management approach, we are able to address the individual needs and challenges that each young person faces. Your donation allows us to continue providing this personalized support, helping them find stable housing, access to education and employment opportunities, and ultimately, break the cycle of homelessness.

In addition to case management, we also provide essential basic needs to our youth. This includes access to nutritious meals, hygienic products, clothing, and a safe space to rest and recharge. Your contribution goes directly towards ensuring that these basic needs are met, providing a sense of stability and dignity to those who need it most.

Your gift is truly changing lives. It offers hope, support, and opportunities for a brighter future. We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to our cause and your belief in our work.

Once again, thank you for your generous donation. Your support is invaluable in our efforts to end youth homelessness. Together we can make a lasting impact and create a better future for these young individuals.

Nikki Kalvin
Director of Advancement
nkalvin@hope4youth.org
763-323-2066 ext. 102

Bluegrass Rehearsal Dates and Times

Tuesday August 15th at 7 pm

Thursday August 17th at 7 pm

Tuesday August 22nd at 7 pm

Thursday August 24th at 7 pm

Dress Rehearsal Saturday August 26th (TBD)

Bluegrass Sunday August 27th warmups begins at 8 am



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.

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Pastor Jason Neel: soclcpastor@gmail.com

Ministers: All Members

Music Director

John Peterson: carsinger@aol.com

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

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