SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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 26, 2026 *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

Welcome

O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near *LSB 599*

(*tune 883*)

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.

Invocation

P We begin our worship in the name of the Father, of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

Confession and Absolution

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

C (Sung) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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).

Sit

First Reading *Deuteronomy 7:6-9*

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your
God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth
to be his people, his treasured possession.
7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because
you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the
fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and
kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out
with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of
slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know
therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful
God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of
those who love him and keep his commandments.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading *Romans 8:28-39*

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.

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 13:44-52*

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.**

Before the Throne of God Above

LSB 574
(*tune 595*)

1 Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

2 My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav’n he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

3 When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin.

6 At one with him, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

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 *LSB 208*

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

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.

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.

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*

Refrain

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 blessèd, holy Trinity.
With angels I, thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain*

How Firm a Foundation *LSB 728*

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

4 "When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

5 "Throughout all their lifetime my people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus *LSB 821*

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia!his the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by his blood."

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by his blood."

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

LSB 741

1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense (tune 940)
And my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope here given,
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many_an anxious thought.

2 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
Likewise I to life shall waken.
He will bring me where he is;
Shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head
Rise and leave his members dead?

3 No, too closely I am bound
By my hope to Christ forever;
Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,
Grasped it, and will leave it never;
Even death now cannot part
From its Lord the trusting heart.

4 I am flesh and must return
To the dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern
That from death I shall awaken
With my Savior to abide
In His glory, at His side.

5 Glorified, I shall anew
With this flesh then be enshrouded;
In this body I shall view
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
In this flesh I then shall see
Jesus Christ eternally.

6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
For His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice;
Dying, they will never perish;
For the very grave is stirred
When the trumpet's blast is heard.

Dismissal

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.

In Thee Is Gladness *LSB 818*

1 In Thee is gladness
Amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given
The gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest,
Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely
Has built securely;

He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining
To see Thy shining,
Dying or living
To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

2 Since He is ours,
We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses
In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story
Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices
In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,
Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Announcements

Sending

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in worship today

July 26, 2026

Pastor

Jason Neel

Elders:

Eric Skogerboe

Kevin Zimmerman

Reader:

Peggy Peterson

Usher:

Sue Anderson

Organist:

Karine Platt

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Steve Johnson 7/26, Mark Endorf 7/27, Tracy Carlson 7/28, Ryan Lougheed 7/31, Dan Mathiason 8/1, and Nancy Tepley 8/1.

Celebrating Baptism: Elliana Bryan 7/27, Jan Kuehl 7/27, Peggy Peterson 7/29, Laura Kaiser 7/31, Carol Danger 8/1, Diane Weinhold 8/1, Evan Baker 8/1, Isaac Jauch 8/1, Marlene Birkholz 8/1, Raelene Burmeister 8/1, and Rebecca Hansen 8/1.

Celebrating Anniversaries: Peter & Dianne Setness 7/29.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Monday	6:00 p.m.	VBS
	7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	VBS
	6:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Faith Class
	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	VBS
Saturday	7:00 a.m.	Small Group Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study

Notes of Information

Vacation Bible School: Starts tonight. If you have not registered your child, there is still time. Register at the door, invite a friend.

S.A.G.E.S: July/Aug/Sept newsletter is in the narthex on the back table.

Stewardship: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

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

July 27 - The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager.

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.

Cans for Youth: The cans that are collected in the fenced in area in the corner of the parking lot are for the youth. All the proceeds go to the youth. So please keep collecting and dropping them off.

NACE: North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of all canned goods. At this time they are only taking Spring/Summer clothing. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Peterson. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson at 763-434-5665.

Carl's Movie Minutes:

Coming soon: Bad Counselors: 7/22-27 Wh. Bear and AMCs. For H.S. age and above. Two frat boys must become church brothers fast. A wild frat party ends up in 120 hrs community service. They decide to pose as counselors at a local church camp with all that entails. They are quickly learning what all that means. Can two part boys lie their way to redemption. A comedy….

The Brink of War: A Docudrama on the nuclear missile talks between Reagan and Gorbachev in a same house in Iceland. The story how these two world leaders but the end of missile race. From Angel studios In theater beginning August 14.

Average Weekly Offering	$6766.00
Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan	$7422.59
Actual Weekly Costs	$7374.29

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9:1-5, 6-13, Matthew 14:13-21



HELP LOCAL STUDENTS

START THE SCHOOL YEAR READY TO LEARN!

NACE Foodshelf is now collecting donations for our

Annual School Supplies Drive

Your generosity helps ensure local children have the supplies they need to begin the school year with confidence.

WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW BACKPACKS (NO WHEELS) AND NEW, UNOPENED SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- New Backpacks (no wheels)
- 12-pack Crayola Colored Pencils
- 24-pack Crayola Crayons
- 8-pack Crayola Washable Markers
- 12-count #2 Pencils (Dixon Ticonderoga preferred)
- Wide-ruled Spiral Notebookbooks
- Lined Composition Notebooks
- Elmer's Glue Sticks
- Elmer's White Glue
- Student-Sized Pointed Metal Scissors (Fiskars)
- Student-Sized Blunt-Tip Metal Scissors (Fiskars)
- Wide-Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
- 1" Three-Ring Binders w/ Clear Covers
- Hand Sanitizer
- Large Pink Erasers
- Rulers
- Yellow Highlighters
- Boxes of Kleenex

DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED OFF DURING NACE'S REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

Thank you for investing in the future of our community's children!

18511 HWY 65 NE,
EAST BETHEL, MN 55011

763-434-7685

FOR HOURS & INFO:
nacefoodshelf.org

2025–2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 13

REACHING GOD'S CHILDREN IN HAITI

TRINITY HOPE, HAITI | $61,782





Showing Love to Haitian Children

Fear is a constant for the children of Haiti. Fear for their safety and fear wondering where their next meal will come from. Trinity HOPE is helping children in Haiti by providing nourishment for the body and soul. Students receive a lunch while in school, while hearing the life changing message of Jesus Christ.

This grant will be used to reach around 425 students at a rural school in Paul et Isabel, Haiti. Prayers of thanks are said over the food and hymns of praise can be heard throughout the school day. Providing a lunch has allowed students to stay engaged in school and retain what they are learning. Trinity HOPE has seen regular attendance, students' national test scores, and grade level advancement all increase significantly when schools are a part of their program. Students' basic needs are being met while hearing about God's love for them.

Trinity HOPE partners with Lutheran schools throughout the country by supporting Lutheran pastors and teachers and by making sure these schools have what they need to share the Gospel and ensure each child receives a hot meal while at school. They also provide opportunities for over 400 native Haitians to be gainfully employed. With 36 program directors employed by the ministry, over 350 cooks employed by the schools, and food purchased from local vendors throughout the country, Trinity HOPE's feeding program contributes to the Haitian economy and helps break through cycles of generational poverty.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35).

Memorial / Columbarium Proposal for Spirit of Christ Church

What is a Memorial / Columbarium

- ***A Memorial*** **provides us the opportunity to remain spiritually connected to our Christian community of saints and to create a serene place to reflect and meditate.**
- ***A Memorial*** **is a sacred resting place for loved ones and for the care, placement, and inurnment of their cremated remains. It allows for peaceful meditation and prayer among those we have loved and whose lives and service we wish to remember.**
- ***A Memorial*** **provides a way to stay connected to the community where families were raised, much like the church cemeteries of our ancestors.**
- ***A Memorial*** **may have any or all of the following elements:**
    - ***Columbarium*****- a structure consisting of a collection of niches designed to house containers or urns of cremated human remains (cremains).**
    - ***Niche*****- an individual compartment that holds the urn containing the ashes.**
    - ***Memorial Wall*****- a wall upon which memorials are displayed. There is no niche for cremains.**
    - ***Sitting benches*****- for guests to sit as they visit the garden.**
    - ***Prayer Garden*****- landscaping and flower garden to beautify the site.**

Your Memorial/Columbarium Committee: Sandy Elhardt (chair), Carl Schwanbeck, John Peterson, Gerry Anderson, Mark Endorf, Kevin Zimmerman, and Arlene Martti.

SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

2749 Bunker Lake Blvd NE
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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