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!

August 23, 2026 *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Welcome

We Sing for All the Unsung Saints *LSB 678*

1 We sing for all the unsung saints,
That countless, nameless throng,
Who kept the faith and passed it on
With hope steadfast and strong
Through all the daily griefs and joys
No chronicles record,
Forgetful of their lack of fame,
But mindful of their Lord.

2 Though uninscribed with date or place,
With title, rank, or name,
As living stones their stories join
To form a hallowed frame
Around the myst'ry in their midst:
The Lamb once sacrificed,
The Love that wrested life from death,
The wounded, risen Christ.

3 So we take heart from unknown saints
Bereft of earthly fame,
Those faithful ones who have received
A more enduring name:
For they reveal true blessing comes
When we our pride efface
And offer back our lives to be
The vessels of God's grace.

Invocation

P 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 When the Spirit revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Jesus celebrated this by announcing the role that Peter and the church would play in his earthly reign, saying:

C "…on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

P In the Small Catechism, Luther describes this authority by saying:

C "The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to his church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent…this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us himself."

P We come before the Lord together, acknowledging our sinful nature and our sins of thought, word, and action. We ask that the Holy Spirit would work repentance in us so that we might be comforted by the gift of absolution Jesus has promised.

C Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, work in us the change of heart and mind that you desire. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, and comfort us again with the assurance that his holiness is ours. Amen.

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

P In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the work of the Comforter who is the Holy Spirit, saying "he will guide you into all truth…He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." The Spirit of Christ who lives in you shapes your life in repentance, and in God's mercy unlocks the prison of your sin by giving you the righteousness of Christ. In the stead and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in comfort and peace, "as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with (you) himself."

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).

Sit

First Reading *Isaiah 51:1-6*

51 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who
seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to
the quarry from which you were hewn;2 look to Abraham, your
father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he
was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.
3 The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion
on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden,
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will
be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.4 "Listen to
me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from
me; my justice will become a light to the nations.5 My
righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way,
and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look
to me and wait in hope for my arm.6 Lift up your eyes to the
heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like

smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 11:25-12:2

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, 26 and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written:
"The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, 29 for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. 30 Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. 32 For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.
12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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 16:13-20*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chap ter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his
disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and
still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the
living God."17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of
Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by
my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on
this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not
overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;
whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and
whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he
ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name *LSB 549*

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all.

2 Crown him, ye martyrs of our God,
Who from his altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod
And crown him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod
And crown him Lord of all.

3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace
And crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace
And crown him Lord of all.

4 Hail him, ye heirs of David's line,
Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine,
And crown him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine,
And crown him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all.

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

The 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.

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.

Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free

LSB 473
(tune 697)

1 Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free,
Is sacrificed. O keep
The feast of freedom gallantly;
Let alleluias leap:

2 Let all our lives now celebrate
The feast; let malice die.
Let love grow strong anew, and great,
Let truth stamp out the lie.

3 Let all our deeds, unanimous,
Confess him as our Lord
Who by the Spirit lives in us,
The Father's living Word.

4 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!

Your Table I Approach

LSB 628
(*tune 975*)

1 Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.

2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at your hands.

3 Your body and your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at your table, Lord,
In blest reality.

4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank you day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

LSB 856

1 O Christ, who called the Twelve
To rise and follow you,
Forsaking old, familiar ways
For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call
To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to you,
Find perfect liberty.

2 **The truth for ages sealed,**
Whose words and works awakened faith,
The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray,
By your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek
Their light, their life, their Lord.

3 **O Christ, who led the Twelve**
Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all
our love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways
Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills
Where love is crucified.

4 **O Christ, who sent the Twelve**
On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim
The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith
Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains
Both life and ministry.

5 **O Christ, the_apostles' Lord,**
The martyrs' strength and song,
The crucified and risen King
To whom the saints belong:
Though generations pass,
Our tribute still we bring,
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,
Our lives an offering.

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go *LSB 854*

(*tune 664*)

1 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
In all I think or speak or do.

2 The task Thy wisdom has assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find,
And prove Thy good and perfect will.

3 Thee may I set at my right hand,
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
And labor on at Thy command,
And offer all my works to Thee.

4 Give me to bear Thine easy yoke,
And ev'ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look,
And hasten to Thy glorious day.

5 For Thee delightfully employ
Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,
And run my course with even joy,
And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.

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.

Christ the Eternal Lord *LSB 829*

1 Christ the eternal Lord,
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name your name;
With thankfulness and praise
We stand before your throne,

Intent to serve you all our days
And make your glory known.

2 Christ the unchanging Word
To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,
Within your Word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.

3 Christ the redeeming Son,
Who shares our human birth,
And by his death salvation won
For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today
And follow him as Lord.

4 Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth you give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.

5 Christ the ascended King
Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call your children home at last
To know as we are known.

Announcements

Sending

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in worship today

August 23, 2026

Pastor

Jason Neel

Elders:

Kevin Zimmerman

Reader:

Sue Anderson

Usher:

Sue Anderson

Organist:

Karine Platt

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Linda Schwanbeck 8/24.
Celebrating Baptism: Hannah Schoenbauer 8/23, Beth Degler 8/24, and Shelby Parson 8/28.
Celebrating Anniversaries: Jacob & Kristina Kothrade 8/25, and Dale & Peggy Peterson 8/28.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Faith class
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Saturday	7:00 a.m.	Small Group Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	LWML Zone Delegate Board Mtg
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study

Notes of Information

Congregational Meeting: We will be having a Congregational meeting following the service today.

Mercy Ministry: There will be a Mercy Ministry Meeting Monday, September 1st at 5:30 pm. If you'd like to learn more about Mercy Ministry or have been involved in the past and want to become active again we'd love to have you join us!

Stewardship: "If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to his service you could not give him anything that was not in a sense his own already." (C.S. Lewis)

Bible study for older men and women: On Friday September 11th there will be a bible study with Pastor Jason related to issues around aging. If you have any questions, contact Elaine Hayden.

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

August 24 - The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters
September 28 - In Pieces by Sally Field
October 26 - Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books by Kirsten Miller

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager.

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. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson at 763-434-5665.

Average Weekly Offering	$6685.00
Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan	$7422.59
Actual Weekly Costs	$7360.16

Readings for next week:
Jeremiah 15:15-21, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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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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