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!

September 27, 2026 - *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Welcome

"As Surely as I Live," God Said *LSB 614*

1 "As surely as I live," God said, (*tune 551*)
"I would not see the sinner dead.
I want him turned from error's ways,
Repentant, living endless days."

2 And so our Lord gave this command:
"Go forth and preach in ev'ry land;
Bestow on all My pard'ning grace
Who will repent and mend their ways.

3 "All those whose sins you thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,
And those whose sins you will retain
Condemned and guilty shall remain.

4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be;
What you will loose, that shall be free;
To My dear Church the keys are giv'n
To open, close the gates of heav'n."

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 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.

P Almighty God,

C have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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

Dismiss for Nursery

First Reading *Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32*

The word of the LORD came to me: 2 “What do you
people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of
Israel: “‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s
teeth are set on edge’?3 “As surely as I live, declares the
Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb
in Israel. 4 For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well
as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins
is the one who will die.25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the
LORD is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way
unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? 26 If a
righteous person turns from their righteousness and
commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they
have committed they will die. 27 But if a wicked person
turns away from the wickedness they have committed
and does what is just and right, they will save their life.
28 Because they consider all the offenses they have
committed and turn away from them, that person will
surely live; they will not die. 29 Yet the Israelites say, ‘The

way of the Lord is not just.' Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?[30] "Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. [31] Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? [32] For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading *Philippians 2:1-13*

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, [2] then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. [3] Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, [4] not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.[5] In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: [6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;[7] rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross![9] Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in
heaven and on earth and under the earth,11 and every
tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father.12 Therefore, my dear friends, as
you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but
now much more in my absence—continue to work out
your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God
who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his
good purpose.

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 21:23-32*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was
teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him. “By what authority are you doing these
things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”
24 Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you
answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing
these things. 25 John’s baptism—where did it come from?
Was it from heaven, or of human origin? ”They
discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say,

‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”27 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know. ”Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’29 ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.30 “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted? “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

God Loved the World So That He Gave *LSB 571*

1 God loved the world so that He gave (*tune 550*)
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

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.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Holy is 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.

To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All *LSB 613*

1 To Thee, omniscient Lord of all, (*tune 717*)
In grief and shame I humbly call;
I see my sins against Thee, Lord,
The sins of thought and deed and word.
They press me sore; I cry to Thee:
O God, be merciful to me!

2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray:
O cast me not in wrath away!
Let Thy good Spirit ne'er depart,
But let Him draw to Thee my heart
That truly penitent I be:
O God, be merciful to me!

3 O Jesus, let Thy precious blood
Be to my soul a cleansing flood.
Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away,
But grant that justified I may
Go to my house at peace with Thee:
O God, be merciful to me!

O God, My Faithful God *LSB 696*

1 O God, my faithful God,
True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is,
All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unstained by sin.

2 Grant me the strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command,
My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should
While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good,
For You must give success.

3 Keep me from saying words
That later need recalling;
Guard me lest idle speech
May from my lips be falling;
But when within my place
I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace
Lest I offend the weak.

4 Lord, let me win my foes
With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends
For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught,
To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might
To live in peace with all.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

LSB 845
(*tune 554*)

1 Where charity and love prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love
By love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.

As the Deer Runs to the River *ELW 331*

(*LSB tune 918*)

1 As the deer runs to the river,
parched and weary from the chase,
we have come from hurt and hurry,
thirsting for your healing grace.
Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

2 When your Israel crossed the desert
where no stream or spring was seen,
Moses struck the rock, and water
flowed for them, refreshing, clean.
Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

3 "Come and drink," Isaiah summoned,
"all who for God's mercy plead!
God's forgiveness, like a fountain,
flows to satisfy your need."
Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

4 Christ, we come from desert places,
deepest thirst unsatisfied.
Lead us to the waters flowing
from the cross on which you died.
Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

Dismissal

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious with you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

C Amen.

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

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.

Announcements

Sending

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Serving in worship today

September 27, 2026

Pastor

Jason Neel

Elders:

Kevin Zimmerman
Phil Marquardt

Reader:

Lois Spadgenske

Usher:

Randy Herschman

Acolyte:

Nathan Skogerboe
Gemma Pierce

Organist:

Karine Platt

Nursery:

Nicole & Nora Weinhold

Greeters:

Jerry & Inky Dedrick

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Al Haselhorst 9/27, Riley Mathiason 9/28, Eddie Kothrade 9/29, Jeff Fey 10/1, Carol Etelmaki 10/2, Kris Mathiason 10/2, and Valerie Anderson 10/3.

Celebrating Baptism: Amelia Kedrowski 9/27, Tracy Carlson 9/27, Art Hayden 9/30, Chase Carlson 9/30, and Curt Olson 9/30.

Celebrating Anniversaries: Dan & Kris Mathiason 9/28.

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	6:00 p.m.	Isaiah Bible Study
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Isaiah Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:00 p.m.	Bells
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
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.	Education Hour
	6:00 p.m.	Isaiah Bible Study

Notes of Information

Stewardship: "*Stewardship is the way we use the abundance that God has entrusted to our care to love God and our neighbors.***" (**Grace Duddy Pomroy**)**

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

Book Club: Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:
September 28 - In Pieces by Sally Field.
October 26 - The Dutch House by Ann Patachett.
November 23 - The Forgotten Home Child by Genevieve Graham.
December 28 - No book club.
If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager.

Carl's Movie Minutes:

Runner: Angel Studio release NOT FOR EVERYONE high packed, humor accented drama of two unlikely males trying to get a donor organ to a child while black marketeers want it. Light style of mission impossible including a bird. Alan Ritchson, who plays Reacher on Amazon Prime plays a reforming tough guy along with Owen Wilson in a madcap adventure. Opens 9/11 White Bear Engine.

No Limits: The Nick V Story: If you are familiar with inspirational Christian apologists, you have undoubtedly familiar with Nick V. Here is a documentary of his life story and he become an international leader in proclaiming Christ. 9/25-10/1. Emagine White Bear 3:50**,** 6:30.

Adore Him; He is Near: A docudrama that invites you to enter the very presence of God. Using cinematic re-enactments that span salvation history and intimate modern day interviews from around the world films explores the transforming power of meeting the Creator of the universe face to face, From the Ark of the

Covenant to the Lord's table learning how much God loves you. A Catholic perspective Oct 1-7 Emagine East Bethel and White Bear; AMC Coon Rapids

Angel and the Bad Man: John Wayne redo; A wounded outlaw, on the run from the law and his fellow outlaws, comes across farm worked by devout Christians. He is brought into their home for care. Principally one of the daughters being very attentive. He heals and becomes attracted to his nurse. Her strong Christian principles determine her life. If he is to make any headway it will mean some major changes including church attendance. Just when things are progressing the posse and the outlaw partners find him…Tommy Lee Jones one of the stars…Oct 9 White Bear Emagine among other screens.

Sense and Sensibilities: For the Jane Austen fans; three sisters, after their father's death, are obliged to live off the generosity of others Oct 16 East Bethel Emagine, White Bear Emagine and Mounds view AMC.

Average Weekly Offering	$6643.00
Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan	$7422.59
Actual Weekly Costs	$7360.16

Readings for next week:
Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 3:4-14, Matthew 21:33-36

2025–2027 MISSION GRANT NO. 12

GOSPEL OUTREACH THROUGH THE DIGITAL MISSION FIELD

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES, U.S. | $100,000





"Bringing Christ to the Nations" — Through the Internet

The mission of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is "Bringing Christ to the Nations®—and the Nations to the Church." Through this mission grant, they are still using the same focus for their work, but they are now using technology to spread the Gospel.

LHM's digital resources and social media platforms: websites, blogs, podcasts, and online communities reach people from all walks of life. They have digital resources that are geared to people of all ages, including children and youth. Families and individuals can benefit from these resources, which enable LHM to connect with people that have never entered a church building. People receive hope, comfort, and guidance in the Gospel through the sharing of a Scripture reading or hearing an uplifting message.

The internet expands the reach of the Gospel so that lives may be transformed in new and innovative ways. LHM is embracing this exciting future of the digital mission field as the strategy that opens the door to new opportunities.

We pray that with the use of these online resources, many will be introduced to our Lord and Savior and that the number of saints will be expanded, "Bringing Christ to the Nations®—and the Nations to the Church."

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:19).



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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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