Sunday, September 20, 21, 2025

Fifteenth Week After Pentecost



*Christ Lutheran Church*

**“A Place Where You are Always Welcome”**

**Services: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10:00 am**

**Sunday School: 9:00 am (September- May)**

600 North Main Street, Stockton, IL   61085 Office: 815-947-2033

Email: christlutheranchurch70@gmail.com http://www.christlutheranstockton.com

**Ministers:** **ALL members of the congregation**

***Pastor: Rev. Chrissy Salser*** [***chrissytherev@att.net***](mailto:chrissytherev@att.net) ***815-988-9450***

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***WELCOME:*** *Thank you for joining us for worship today. We are glad you are with us. Communion will be served in the aisle or in your pew. All are welcome to share this meal. Jesus is our host and invites everyone. Those who would like to come forward, bread and wine will also be available in the front. When directed by the usher, come forward down the center aisle, Pr Chrissy will give you bread (she will be masked and wearing cloves) and then you will take a cup of wine (grape juice) from the tray. After taking communion, you will return to your seat by the side aisle.* *For those who are unable to come forward, communion elements can be found as you entered worship. At that part of the service, you are invited to take the bread and wine (or grape juice) when Pr. Chrissy leads. On Saturday’s offering is collected as you enter or leave worship. On Sunday we will pass the plate as a response to God’s grace. Online giving is available. Please see QR code on back of bulletin or visit our website.*

### Introduction: As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

**Gathering:** *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**🕇CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful and loving God,

**C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C: Amen.**

🕇**GATHERING HYMN Take My Life that I May Be**  **ELW** **685 (next page)**

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🕇**Greeting:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

🕇**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God among us, **we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**C: Amen.**

***Word:*** *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
5 saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances,

6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”  
7 The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely, I will never forget any of their deeds.

### R: The Word of the Lord. C:  Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 113

1 Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.  
2 **Let the name of the Lord be blessed from this time forth forevermore.**  
3 From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.  
4 **The Lord is high above all nations;** **God’s glory above the heavens.**

5 Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,  
6 **but stoops to behold** **the heavens and the earth?**  
7 The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,  
8 **enthroning them with the rulers,** **with the rulers of the people.**  
9 The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

**Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church’s focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,6 who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time.7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

R: The Word of the Lord. C:  Thanks be to God.

🕇**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Listen God is Calling ELW 513 (next page)**

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### 🕇 Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

### P: The Gospel according to Luke C: Glory to you, O Lord

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ 3 Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ 5 So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6 He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ 7 Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

 10 “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy ELW 588**

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🕇**APOSTLES’ CREED:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

🕇**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

P. God of grace **C: Receive our prayer**

🕇**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always. C. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING:** *Our offering is a significant act of worship; we worship God through our giving. The ministry of this congregation is completely dependent upon your partnership and generosity. Offering is collected as you enter worship on Saturday. We will pass the offering plate on Sundays. Online giving is available.*

**OFFERING HYMN: Take, Oh, Take Me as I Am ELW 814**

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Lord of the harvest, **C: we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.**

**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: Amen.**

**COMMUNION LITURGY:** 

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*Please come down the center aisle, take the bread, then receive a cup (wine is dark, juice is light, return to your seats via side aisle.) Those who prefer to take communion in your pews, we will take all together after all are served.*

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:**

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. *(All take bread).*

P: This is the blood of Christ shed for you. *(All take the wine).*

**COMMUNION HYMN: We Are an Offering ELW 692**

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,**

**We are an offering.**

🕇 **TABLE BLESSING**

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

🕇**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: O God, **C: Through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**SENDING:** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**🕇BLESSING:**

P:The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

**🕇SENDING HYMN Be Thou Vision ELW 793**

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🕇**DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY**: Teresa Hesselbacher, Darlene and Walt Steffes, Bob Schreck, Delores Wampfler, Marge and Gerald Arnold, Don & Judy Brudi, Avari Ven Huizen, James Dieter, Christine Happ, Kay Hesselbacher, Mary Lou Bunker, Lillian Sefford, Jeff Encheff, Judy Wilson, Russ Synder, Don Kunz, Johnny Blair, Troy Olson ***To add someone to the prayer list please contact Pastor Chrissy***

***Updated address:*** *Teresa Hesselbacher* ***Rm D25*** *Alden Debes 550 South Mulford Rd Rockford, Il 61108 cell phone 608-482-3720*

**ANDERSON HOUSE BIRTHDAYS:** James - October 15 (66)– Westerns and Word Search

Joy – October 28 (67) Enjoys Word Search and Westerns

*Please mail cards or drop off at Anderson House 200 E. King Ave. Stockton IL 61085*

**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES:** Jared Herman, Karen Dick, Jason Werner, Charlotte Ernst, Beckitt Ernst, Caley Feltmeyer, Kevin and Marci Schubert, Tim and Heather Larson

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thanks be to God for your gifts for the ministry of  Christ Lutheran Church \***these numbers do not reflect online giving- only offering in worship** | | | | Offering/ Attendance  Sat Sept 13  Sunday Sept 14 | |
| Current Expense | $1,291.00 | Building Fund | $10.00 | Sept 13 | **18** |
| Benevolence | $10.00 | Sunday School | $20.00 | Sep 14  Sunday School | **46**  **15** |
|  |  | **Total** | |  | | --- | | **$1,331.00** | | Community table | **27** |

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Description automatically generatedAugust Totals**:As a way to improve communication around finances, we are sharing the following information: \***these numbers reflect online giving contribution**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2025** | | |
|  | **August** | **Year to date** |
| Offerings: | **$8,403** | **$78,926** |
| Expenses: | **$9,579** | **$83,172** |
| ***Overall Gain / Loss*** | ***($1,176)*** | ***($4,246)*** |

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**AMAZON WISH LIST:** did you know that everyday items used at the church are items you could contribute? Find our list here or on our Facebook page. Thank you! <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/TWP5U0RAGGAY?ref_=wl_share>

**WELCA TRIP TO ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION:** save the date October 22, 2025, for a trip to the Rescue mission to tour and learn all about the many things they do there. Lunch will be provided. Leaving Christ at 9:40. See Judy Schuldt for more information.

**THE COMMUNITY TABLE:** The Community Table is an opportunity for outreach to the local community. This is a twice a month meal on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 11:30, here at Christ to gather for food, fellowship and fun, if you are interested in volunteering please talk with Janet Haas or Debbie Goebel. Join us Tuesday, October 7 and 21st. All are welcome.

**BIBLE STUDY:** join us on Wednesday mornings at 9am Beginning September 24th, we will meet in the narthex weekly to study the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come for a chance to explore the Word together and pray over those on our prayer list. This will meet every Wednesday unless otherwise noted. Please contact Pastor Chrissy if you have any question.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** children’s Sunday school has begun September 14th. We have enough help to separate the big kids from the littles. Come and check out our new approach to Sunday School. We start in the Sanctuary for singing at 9 am. Volunteers are needed to teach Sunday School once a month.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** students in grades 7th & 8th grade and older who would like to learn more about their faith, will gather on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 8:30-9:45 am. Please sign up online or talk to Pastor Chrissy. Mark your calendar for the Fall Retreat at LOMC November 21-22. More info to come.



**BABY KIT ITEMS NEEDED:** WELCA quilters are hard at work putting together baby kits for Lutheran World Relief. The following items that are needed can be brought to the church. Items needed: Hand towels (dark colors recommended), bars of (mild) soap, Jackets or sweaters (0-2t), Baby blankets Questions ask Judy Schuldt.

**SPECIAL OFFERING:** on Saturday October 4th and Sunday October 5th we will be collecting a special offering for Stockton Schools to help those families who may need a little extra support.

**Upcoming Events**

* September 20- WELCA Convention at First Lutheran, Rockford
* **September 20- 8 am Breaking Break Together at Copper Leaf Café (former Stella’s)**
* September 20- 5:30 pm Worship
* September 21- 9 am Sunday School
* September 21- 10 am Worship
* September 22- 9 am Quilting
* September 24- 9 am Bible Study
* September 27- 5:30 pm worship (no communion)
* **September 28- 8:30 am Confirmation Class**
* September 28 9 am Sunday School
* September 29- Worship (with communion)
* October 9- WELCA annual meeting and Bible Study at Church and lunch at Copper Leaf Cafe
* October 7- 11:30 am Community Table
* October 14- 9:30 am Northwest Pastor’s Conference