Sunday, July 20, 2025

Sixth 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

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**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: Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**🕇CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.* In the name of the Father,and of the ☩ Son,and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others,** **but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,** **but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.** **You surround us with patience, kindness,**

**and generosity,** **but we grow weary in doing what is right.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.** **Do not give up on us.** **Heal us, break our bonds,** **and show us the path of life.** **Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**C: Amen.**

🕇**GATHERING HYMN** **Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak ELW 676**

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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: Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

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

### First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

### *The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

### 1 The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. 3 He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” 7 Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. 9 They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” 10a Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

### P: The word the Lord C:  Thanks be to God.

**Psalm:** **Psalm 15**

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill? 2 **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,** **who speak the truth from their heart;**  
3 they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.  
4 **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.** **They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**  
5 They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

**Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28**

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

15 [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.  
 21 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, 23 provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.  
24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. 25 I became its minister according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

🕇**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Listen Now for the Gospel ACS 972**

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### 🕇 Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

### During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

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

38 Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” 41 But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, 42 but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY Give Me Jesus ELW 770 A sheet music with text and notes

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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: hear 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: Goodness is Stronger than Evil ELW 721A sheet music with notes and words

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Creator God, **C: in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**COMMUNION LITURGY:**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all the drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

*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 Blessed Assurance ELW 638 (next page)**

🕇**TABLE BLESSING:**

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C. Amen.**

🕇**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

P: Mothering God, **C: you gathered us to your table** **and we drank deeply of your grace.**

**Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name**. **Amen**

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

🕇**BLESSING:** P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

🕇**SENDING HYMN All Hail the Power if Jesus’ Name ELW 634**

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🕇**DISMISSAL:** P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**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 Brudi, James Dieter, Christine Happ, Kay Hesselbacher, Mary Lou Bunker, Lillian Sefford, Jeff Encheff, Judy Wilson, Audrea Haas, Russ Synder, Vander Eden ***To add someone to the prayer list please contact Pastor Chrissy***

***Updated address:*** *Teresa Hesselbacher Rm D16 Alden Debes 550 South Mulford Rd Rockford, Il 61108 cell phone 608-482-3720*

**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES:**  Christina Hartog, Teresa Hasselbacher, Madison Tesmer, Hollie Ernst, Kay Wilson, Nancy Rice, Steve Rice, Lorie Wright, Larry Goebel, Liam Brown, Keegan Philips, Scott and Terry Haas

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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  Saturday July 12  Sunday July 13 | |
| Current Expense | $3,079.50 | Building Fund | $30.00 | July 12 | **20** |
| Benevolence | $15.00 | Grab ‘N’ Go | $45.00 | July 13 | **39** |
|  |  |  |  | Community table | **25** |
|  |  | **Total** | **$3,164.50** |  |  |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2025** | | |
|  | **June** | **Year to date** |
| Offerings: | **$10,770** | **$62,032** |
| Expenses: | **$ 9,795** | **$62,503** |
| ***Overall Gain / Loss*** | ***$975*** | ***($471)*** |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please join us for the dikonia Graduating class of 2025 Saturday July 19, 2025, 2:00 pm*

***Zion Lutheran Church 1300 Pearl Street Belvidere, IL 61008***

*Debbie Goebel is graduating; Debbie preaches and*

*leads worship in Pastor Chrissy’s vacation*

***All are welcome!***

**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.

**CHILDREN’S PLAY:** Story book full of beans will be presented in the basement on July 26th at 7 pm and Sunday July 27th at 2 pm. The kids have been working hard. This will be a dessert theater. **We are looking for dessert ingredients to be donated, there is a sign-up sheet on the back table. Please bring items to church by July 23rd for baking on July 24 & 25. For questions or more information please see Leisa Hubb.**

**YOU ARE INVITED** to June Dittmar’s 90th birthday open house on Saturday August 2nd from 1-3 in the dining hall at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 625 Country Lane Drive in Lena, IL.  Please, no gifts.  Your presence is a gift enough.

**Upcoming Events**

* **July 19- 8 am Breaking Bread together at Stella’s**
* **July 19- 2 pm - Diakonia Graduation Zion Belvidere**
* **July 19- There will not be Saturday evening worship \***
* **July 26 – 5:30 worship**
* **July 26- 7 pm Story Book Full of beans children’s play**
* **July 27- 10 am worship**
* **July 27- 2 pm Story Book Full of beans children’s play**
* **August 5- 11:30 am Community Table**