Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19, 2025

Nineteenth 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: Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ’s encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ’s table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

### 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 Precious Lord, Take my Hand** **ELW 773**

**Precious Lord, take my hand Lead me on, let me stand   
I'm tired, I’m weak, I’m lone   
Through the storm, through the night   
Lead me on to the light   
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home   
  
When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near   
When my light is almost gone   
Hear my cry, hear my call   
Hold my hand lest I fall   
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home   
  
When the darkness appears and the night draws near   
And the day is past and gone   
At the river I stand   
Guide my feet, hold my hand   
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home**

🕇**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: O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, **C: you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

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

### First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

*Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother’s birthright and his father’s blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to “Israel,” a name that means “he wrestles with God.”*

22 The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob,

he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” 27 So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.”

28 Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.” 29 Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

### Psalm: Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
 2 **My help comes from the Lord,** **the maker of heaven and earth.**  
 3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches

over you all asleep.  
 4 **Behold, the keeper of Israel** **will neither slumber nor sleep;**  
 5 the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
 6 **the sun will not strike you by day,** **nor the moon by night.**  
 7 The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.  
 8 **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,**  
  **from this time forth for evermore.**

**Second Reading: Timothy 3:14-4:5**

*The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.  
 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching.

3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5 As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

🕇**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Listen God is Calling ELW 513**

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### 🕇 Gospel: Luke 18 1-8

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

*Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow’s pleas. Jesus is calling God’s people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ 4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” 6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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**

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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. 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: 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: Day by Day ELW 790A sheet of music with notes

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🕇**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: 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 Let Justice Flow Like Streams ELW 717**

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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, Elaine Schlicting, Darlene and Walt Steffes, Bob Schreck, Delores Wampfler, Marge and Gerald Arnold, Don & Judy Brudi, Grayson Raab, James Dieter, Christine Happ, Kay Hesselbacher, Mary Lou Bunker, Lillian Sefford, Jeff Encheff, Judy Wilson, Russ Synder, Don Kunz, Johnny Blair, Jim Sullivan, Sally Duran Salser ***To add someone to the prayer list please contact Pastor Chrissy***

**ANDERSON HOUSE BIRTHDAYS:**

James (Uncle Jimmy) - October 15 – Westerns and Word Search

Joy – October 28 Enjoys Word Search and Westerns

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

**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES**: Jenniefer Kehl, Ryley Schubert, Deloris Wampfler, Jacob Harbach, Maddie Harbach, Troy Feltmeyer, Jonathan Heidenreich, Chad Reusch, Gayle Lingle, Janice Pohl, Gerald and Marge Arnold, Debbie and Larry Goebel, Angie and Chris Marek

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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 Oct 11  Sunday Oct 12 | |
| Current Expense | $1790.00 | Building Fund | $10.00 | Oct 11 | **21** |
| Benevolence  Sunday School  Missions | $10.00  $ 20.00  $ 20.00 |  |  | Oct 12  Sunday School | **54**  **20** |
|  |  | **Total** | |  | | --- | | **$1,850.00** | |  |  |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2025** | | |
|  | **September** | **Year to date** |
| Offerings: | ***$10,542*** | **$89,468** |
| Expenses: | ***$10,168*** | **$93,340** |
| ***Overall Gain / Loss*** | ***$375*** | ***($3,871)*** |

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.**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>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FALL OPEN HOUSE:** all are invited for an afternoon of fellowship at the parsonage on October 19 from 2-4pm. Come for a chance to talk to folks from the church and the community. All are welcome. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

**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 Schult for more information. Sign up in back of church.

**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. We will also be studying the Small Church Advantage. Copies of the book are available. This will meet every Wednesday unless otherwise noted.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** children’s Sunday school began 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 Sanctuary 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.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR 2026 BIBLE SCHOOL:** in the back of the church, we are collecting your plastic milk bottle lids, small plastic pop bottles and assorted plastic bottle lids. Please collect and bring them in!

**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 21st. All are welcome.

**NORTHWEST CONFERENCE WELCA FALL 2025 GATHERING:** join us Friday October 24th at 8:30 am at First Lutheran Church, 303 S Galea Avenue, Freeport IL to join with other sisters in Christ from other Lutheran churches of the Northwest Conference. Topic is Walking the Ancient Path, program led by Pathways, which is a center for Spiritual Renewal will take place from 9-11:30. Registration forms are due to Nancy Rice by October 16. After the program, ladies and guests are invited to join the First Lutheran WELCA ladies for lunch at Big O’s on the Hollow, 1931 IL-75 East. Everyone will pay for their own lunch.

**A VISIT WITH CORRIE:** On Saturday, November 1st at 1 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church 308 E. Brayton Road in Mount Morris. Compelling and inspiring portrayal by Gayle Hass of the Nazi concentration camp survivor and Dutch resistance fighter Corrie ten Boom. Free admission, reception after performance. Donations will be accepted by the national and global women’s ministries of the NISynod WELCA.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX:** start collecting items as we will be having a packing party this year for the shoe boxes. You can still pack your own if you want! Items needed: personal care items (toothbrush, wash cloth, comb or brush, nail clippers, water bottles, flashlights, hair accessories), School Supplies (pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, markers, notebooks, calculators, scissors, rulers, glue sticks, drawstring bags), toys/ puzzles activities (small backpack or purse, doll, balls with pump, puzzles, coloring books, chalk board and chalk, jump rope, stickers, slinky, yo-yo, small toys), *remember items will be packed in shoe boxes.*

**Next Week Readings:** [**Jeremiah 31:31-34**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/Index/2025-10-26/20138) *I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord* [**Psalm 46**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/Index/2025-10-26/20138) *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)* [**Romans 3:19-28**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/Index/2025-10-26/20138)*Justified by God’s grace as a gift*

[**John 8:31-36**](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/Index/2025-10-26/20138) *Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth*

**Upcoming Events**

* October 18- 8 am Breaking bread at Copper Leaf Café
* October 18- 5:30 pm Worship
* October 19- 9 am Sunday School
* October 19- 10 am Worship
* October 19- 2-4 pm Fall Open House at Pastor’s house
* October 21- 11:30 am Community Table
* October 22- 9 am Bible Study
* October 22- 9:40 am WELCA Rockford Rescue Mission Trip
* October 22- 7 pm Church council
* October 23- 5pm Birthday Dinner at Anderson House
* October 24- 8:30 am Northwest Conference WELCA event First, Freeport
* **October 26- 8:30 am Confirmation Class**
* October 31- trunk or treat- parking lot