## Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Welcomes You



## July 22, 2021 – 7:00 P.M. July 25, 2021 – 8:00 & 10:45 A.M.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church & School 4333 Cleveland Avenue, Stevensville, MI 49127 Phone: (269) 429-7222 – Church (269) 429-7111 - School www.christ-luth.org Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.. Thursday Evening Service at 7:00 p.m. Christian Day School: Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

### As We Gather

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no one free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice – seeing the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad – receiving the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage – being summoned to life... Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom. (Leo the Great, Fifth century, Office of Readings, Roman Rite; A Christmas Sourcebook, p. 62)



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# **Confession and Absolution**

#### Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.C Amen.
- **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. *Psal*
- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, 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.
  Luke 18:13

# **C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

- 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. John 20:19-23
- **C** Amen.

Psalm 124:8

Psalm 130:3-4

# Service of the Word

### Introit



On the glorious splendor of your | majesty,\* and on your wondrous works, I will | meditate. I will extol you, my | God and King,\* and bless your name forever and | ever. Every day I will | bless you\* and praise your name forever and | ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,\* and his greatness is un- | searchable. They shall speak of the might of your | awesome deeds,\* and I will declare your | greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant | goodness\* and shall sing aloud of your | righteousness. Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen. On the glorious splendor of your | majesty,\* and on your wondrous works, I will | meditate.



Ps. 145:1-3, 6-7; antiphon Ps 145:5

Gloria in Excelsis **C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to the all earth; 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray; ho - ly; You on - ly 3 For You a - lone are Lord. are the Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth! Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way. 0 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored; We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we singon us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt Have mer - cy cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High, Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high-God the Fa-ther's glo-ry. "A-men!" our glad re - ply. In

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

## **C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Sit

# Readings

### Reading from the Book of Concord

The Formula of Concord, Epitome Article XI, God's Eternal Foreknowledge and Election, 8.

Christ calls all sinners to Himself and promises them rest. He is eager that all people should come to Him and allow themselves to be helped. He offers them Himself in His Word and wants them to hear it and not to plug their ears or neglect and despise the Word. Furthermore, He promises the power and working of the Holy Spirit and divine assistance for perseverance and eternal salvation so that we may remain steadfast in the faith and gain eternal salvation.

### **Readings from Holy Scripture**

### **Old Testament Lesson**

### Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord
- **C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

- P Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
- C How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
- $\mathbf{P}$  For from him and through him and to him are all things.
- **C** To him be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33, 36

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup>that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord

### **C** Thanks be to God.

- P Alleluia. Take heart; it is I.
- **C** Do not be afraid. Alleluia.

Mark 6:50c Stand Alleluia and Verse  $\square$  Al - le - lu - ia. al le-lu - ia. al - le-lu - ia. **C** These things are writ-ten that may be - lieve that vou the Christ. of God. Je - sus is the Son  $\Box$  Al - le - lu - ia, al le-lu - ia. al - le-lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the  $6^{th}$  chapter.

### **C** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>45</sup>Immediately [Jesus] made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup>And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup>And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, <sup>49</sup>but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, <sup>50</sup>for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." <sup>51</sup>And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, <sup>52</sup>for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. <sup>54</sup>And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him <sup>55</sup>and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise to you, O Christ.





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Sermon (Thursday) "Take Heart; It is I" Mark 6:45-54

### Sermon (Sunday) "Who Is Responsible?" Genesis 9:8-17

Stand

### **Nicene Creed**

**C** I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

(Continued)

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

### Gathering of Our Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings

There will be no passing of the offering plates. Please place your offering in the plates in the narthex.





And unending worship be

To the Father and the Spirit

And to You eternally.

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Stand (You may remain seated if necessary.)

## Prayer of the Church

# Service of the Sacrament

(Please see our Communion Statement in the announcements on Page 19).

### Stand

- **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.
- **G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

(Continued)

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

# 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 the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** Amen.

Agnus Dei



Sit





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Stand

Canticle ~ Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon



### **Post-Communion Collect**

- **A** Let us pray.
- A We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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.

#### 

Θ 0 binds 1 Blest be the tie that Our hearts in Chris - tian love: We 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne ar - dent prayers; pour our 3 We share our mu - tual woes. Our mu - tual bur - dens bear. 4 When here our path - ways We suf - fer bit - ter pain; part, 5 From sor-row, toil, And sin shall be free and pain, we The fel-low-ship of kin-dred minds Is like to that a - bove. Our fears, our hopes, our aims are com-forts and our one. Our cares. And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz-ing tear. Yet, one in Christ and one in heart. We hope to meet a - gain. And per-fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - tv.

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+ Silent Prayer +

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:		
THE PREACHER & LITURGIST	Rev. Martin P. Measel	
THE PREACHER & LITURGIST (Thursd	ay)Rev. Daniel Barz	
THE ORGANIST (Sunday & Thursday)	Mark Steffens	
THE ORGANIST (Thursday)	Mark Steffens	
ELDERS ON DUTY (8:00)	Andrew Copi, Mark Russell	
ELDERS ON DUTY (10:45)	Glenn Scowcroft, Phillip Cole	
ELDER ON DUTY (Thursday)	Joe Panzica	
ALTAR GUILD	Terry Steffens, Ginny Jennings	
USHERS (8:00)	Steve Huycke – Captain, Tom Ulmer, John Schulz	
Mike Essig, Chuck Dinges Matthew Starkey, Andrew Gerken,		
USHERS (10:45)		
	Harry Steffen, Bob Wolfanger, Don Mensinger	

## Prayers

### Members who are ill, hospitalized or having surgery

### Continued Prayers:

Amanda Clark	Deleigh McClintock	Kathy Karnik	
Addie Scheffler	Denice McClintock	Laurie Ulmer	
Amee Mantei	Dave Knuth	Laura Lesher	1
Connie Schmidt	Jean Mort	Loren Gerber	
Barbara Maul		Miro Virsik	

Nancy Duke Ferny Rantz Nathan Gerken Pat Hutter

### Family or friends who are ill, hospitalized or having surgery

#### Continued Prayers:

Aubrey Hamby – nephew of Dee Payovich Austin Arndt – grandson of Linda Steinke Karol Syring – daughter of Ken Vieregge Cate Reed – granddaughter of Doris Beezley Ida Eller – friend of Mary Spaulding Jim Russell – brother of Mark Russell Keith Avery – friend of Ralph & Devona Dinges Luke Strohacker – grandson of Chuck & Diane Strohacker Maria Young – friend of Mary Spaulding Marian Gerken – mother of Andy Gerken Pam Szoke – Sister-in-law of Thelma Szoke Paula Hicks – niece of Dee Payovich Phil Oberhaus – brother of Susan Jackemeyer Taryn Schroder – sister of Tamara Paulun William Maul – brother of Charlie Maul

\* Our country, president, armed forces and all those who serve our country, including

\* Alex Root, Allison Blake, James Vieregge, USMC – grandson of Ken Vieregge, Joseph Schafer – nephew of Pastor Quardokus, Mitchell Carter – grandson of Bob Dixon, Matt Weiss, nephew of Fred & Jeanne Huff

#### **Missionaries**

Tom and Debi Going in Japan, Deaconess Caitlin Worden de Ramirez in the Dominican Republic and Rev. Roger James in the Philippines.

## Bulletin Announcements for July 25, 2021

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO WELCOME ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP. Your presence is a blessing. May you find joy, encouragement and hope as we praise God together. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to those around you and to Pastor Measel. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Measel. Visitors, please sign our guest book and join us again! Please feel free to take a blue visitor bag.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** – The flowers on the altar today are dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sue Ellen Machemer, given by Ellen Machemer.

**2021 FLOWER CHART** – The flower chart for 2021 is posted in the commons area. Be sure to sign up soon for the date you would like flowers given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. *THE COST OF ALTAR FLOWERS HAS GONE UP TO \$20.00*, due to increases in flower and transportation costs. After the services, they are delivered to a shut-in or someone that is sick or hospitalized. Thank you!

**THE NURSERY IS AVAILABLE** for your children 3 years of age or younger. You are welcome to take your child or children into the nursery and watch the service from there. Please do not leave your child unattended.

**RADIO SPONSORSHIP** – *The 2021 chart for radio broadcasts is now posted* in the commons area. Christ Lutheran records two radio broadcasts per month. This will give our members more opportunities for sponsorship. Please consider sponsoring a broadcast (you could share it with a family member or friend.) The cost remains \$150.00. Be sure to sign up soon to secure the date you would like!

Our service is being recorded today and will air next Sunday. This broadcast is dedicated to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Helen Quardokus on what would have been her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The radio broadcast is also in honor of Pastor & Valerie Quardokus on the occasion of their 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Our Local Lutheran Worship Service Broadcasts are now on WQYQ AM 1400 and 106.1 FM (Note: The call sign has changed from WSJM to WQYQ but the time and frequencies remain the same for our broadcast) on Sunday mornings from 9:00 -10:00 a.m. The service also can be heard online at <u>https://www.thenewqyq.com</u> or with the TuneIn app on your device. To listen with Alexa say, ''Alexa, play WQYQ.'' The service can be heard from anywhere in the country online.

**WORSHIP** ANEW is a 30-minute traditional Lutheran worship service, broadcast weekly to nourish the souls of those who cannot attend church in a traditional setting. Watch on Sundays at 11:00 am on WHME-TV 46 [FBC] or watch online at any time at www.worshipanew.org/onlineviewing.

**THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE.** (James 5:16) As caring Christians, please remember the following members of Christ Lutheran in your prayers this week:

Tracy & Leonard Stachowski Brittany Cochran Family Tim & Lori Drews Family Dave & Liz Sellke Kattie & Wally Maurer Tim & Annette Garrison

We will be praying for these members during our worship services today. Each week we ask you to remember a different group of members in your daily prayers.

We remember the following Missionary in our prayers this week:



Tom and Debi Going are missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Japan. Tom serves as an educational missionary at Urawa Lutheran School (ULS), a school the LCMS started just north of Tokyo in 1953. He teaches English and works with the school's summer exchange and faculty development programs that seek to connect ULS with American students and faculty.

Tom and Debi have been extensively involved in international missionary work, including more than 20 years of service with the LCMS. Pray for the Goings, that God would continue to bless their ministry to ULS students (only about 5% of whom are Christian) and their fellow teachers (only about 30% of whom are Christian). Ask God to continue giving their family good health and enthusiasm to serve, along with the energy and patience to share the Gospel.

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS WITH PASTOR QUARDOKUS -**Bible class led by Pastor Quardokus is held on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. He is concluding the study of Mark. This study is in the middle of Holy Week. In the upcoming sessions the class will study Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter as recorded in the Gospel of Mark.

**ROCKET CAMP** – **MONDAY, JULY 26** - A fun, fellowship, educational get together. We'll meet at school Monday July 26, 1:00 - 4:00 (Tuesday July 27 is the rain date). Cost is \$10, and you'll build a rocket and fire it twice (and keep the rocket). Open to 3rd grade thru adults (yes adults can come too!). Please call the church / school office, or put your name on the sign-up sheet, so that we order enough rockets (we will have a few extra for last minute attendees).

**RADTKE JAMS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND** – A new supply of Radtke jams has arrived! Strawberry, Apricot, Triple berry, Sour Cherry & Blackberry are available. You will find them in the commons area across from the mailboxes. The cost is \$5.00 per jar and all proceeds go to the Christ Lutheran Fellowship Committee to fund church events.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL BAG SALE** – Christ Lutheran School is planning a back-to-to school bag sale on **August 7**. The goal of this sale is to provide our school and local community with low cost back-to-school shopping. We are looking for donations of gently used or new clothing items in all children's sizes, new school supply items, backpacks and shoes. Donations may be placed in the designated box in the commons. Please contact Angie Webb with any questions. (589-489-6320) or awebb@christstevensville.com. Thank you!

**SCRIP BEING SOLD ON SUNDAYS** – Scrip is being sold after services on Sundays. Look for a scrip seller in the commons area. Remember to buy Scrip for all your summer needs. Major retail scrip cards such as Meijers, Wal-Mart, Martins & Roger's are kept in stock. Ask a Scrip seller for a copy of our complete list of participating merchants. You have to spend the money anyway, might as well make it profitable for you and the church!

**WE ARE MISSING CHURCH TABLES** – We are missing several 8' tables. If anyone borrowed a table/tables, please return them at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

(Proper 12) Ephesians 3:20 – "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think …" We often shortchange God by failing to remember what Paul says here: God can do far more than what we can think or ask. His power, and His love, are without bound and without measure. So why do we fear to follow His word? Isn't it in fact fear that keeps us back from a life of joyous generosity and openhandedness? But God is able to do far more abundantly! So let us not be afraid to take the Lord at his Word and live according to it.

## Charting Our Course - Statistics from Last Week

Thursday Service:	<u>07/15/2021</u> 20		
Sunday: 8:00 A.M. 10:45 A.M. Total: Streaming Views Sunday:	<u>07/18/2021</u> 89 <u>67</u> 156 63	Adult Bible Class Weekday Classes	16 15
Prior Week Total Budgeted Receipts			\$8,710
Average Weekly Budgeted Disbursements			\$18,572



## This Week at Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday, July 25	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Communion Worship Service Bible Class Communion Worship Service.
Monday, July 26 Tuesday, July 27		
Wednesday, July 28		
Thursday, July 29	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Bible Class Worship Service
Friday, July 30	•	
Saturday, July 31		
August 1	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship Service Bible Class Worship Service

# Christ's Mission Christ's Ministry Christ's People



## Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church

We are sincerely thankful that the Lord has led you to worship with us today. We pray that in our liturgy, in our hymns and in our sermon that you will see Jesus Christ, the Savior who died on the cross for the sins of the world. We pray that you will hear Jesus call all nations to repent of their sins. We pray that you will receive the forgiveness of sins won by Christ on the Cross. We believe that through faith this forgiveness transforms us from self-centered lives to lives of service.

If you are use to "praise" style worship, the historic liturgy may be unfamiliar and somewhat strange to you. Our form of worship has its roots in the earliest days of the church.

The word "liturgy" means service. Our worship is called the "Divine Service." In the Divine Service our Lord is the Lord who serves. We understand worship in this way:

"Our Lord serves us today through His holy Word and Sacraments. Through these means, He comes among us to deliver His forgiveness and salvation, freeing us from our sins and strengthening us for service to one another and to the world. At Holy Baptism, He puts His name upon us, pours His Holy Spirit into our hearts, and rescues us from sin, death, and the devil. Through Holy Absolution, He pronounces His forgiveness again and again. With His holy Word, written in Scripture and preaching into our ears, He daily proclaims His abiding love for us through all the joys and sorrows of life in this world. In His Holy Supper, He gives us His own body and blood to eat and drink as a priceless gift to nourish and strengthen us in both body and soul"

Lutheran Service Book vii.

If some of the historic words that we use in worship are new to you, please look at page xxiv of Lutheran Service Book for a glossary. As you learn more about the ancient worship of the Church, you will learn to cherish it as Christians have throughout the centuries. If you have questions about anything that you have seen or heard today, please feel free to contact one of our pastors.