# The Eight Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2023

**As We Gather** - To us in daily living it doesn't make sense that God allows evil to grow outside and even inside the Church. But as we await God's good harvest, we do so in hope, which does not depend on what our eyes see, but on the faith given us by the Holy Spirit. With faith, our ears hear God calling us His children and His listening to the Spirit's groaning for us. As precious wheat protected in God's barn, we can wait patiently for the harvest when by grace the "righteous will shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

**Offering and Registry of Worship Cards:** Please fill out a Registry of Worship Card found in the pew racks. We ask that you print the names of every person in your family, indicating if they take communion. One side of the card is for members and the other side for guests. As the offering is collected, pass the cards to the center aisle so our ushers can gather them.

**Saturday Worship:** Offerings and Worship Cards will be received in the offering plates at the rear of the church either upon entering or when leaving. Thank you for your gift to the work of the Lord.

**About Protecting the Healthy:** To protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases, individuals may choose to mask at any time. Appropriate hand washing by everyone is encouraged. People with symptoms of an infectious illness are highly encouraged to stay home. Symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Thank you for helping to keep everyone healthy as we receive God's gifts in worship.

#### GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

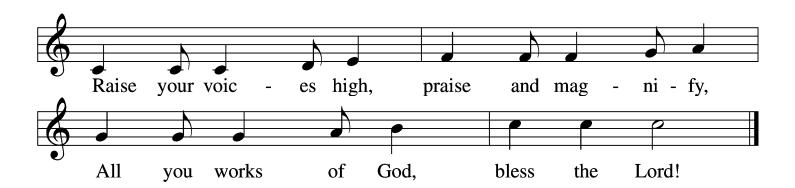
**Prelude and Meditation:** Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

#### **Prelude:**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Greeting and Sharing of Peace (stand)

## **Confession and Absolution**





Come, humanity, sing along,
 Sing, you people of God, a song;
 Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
 Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain

#### Please stand

△ 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
 All you humble, His praise impart;
 God the Father and Son adore,
 Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Jamaican; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–80 ext: © 1995 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852 Tune: © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852

#### Remain standing

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

- ightharpoonup In the name of the Father and of the ightharpoonup Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **©** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut 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.
- Almighty God, 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.
- Amen.

## Service of the Word

#### Introit

- Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.
- I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

  For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before them.
  But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204



God on high be - ry And peace to C 1 To glo all the 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 are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.

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 sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt 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—In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

- P The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. <sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

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

**Epistle** Romans 8:18–27

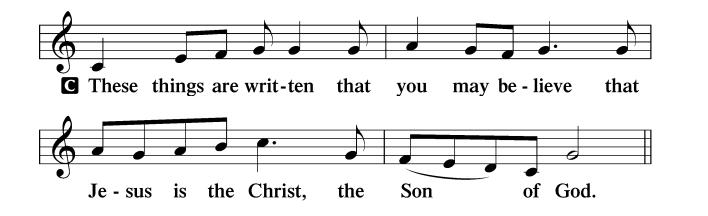
<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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









## **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

## **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' <sup>28</sup>He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him,

saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

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

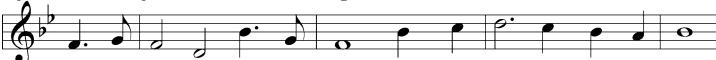
## **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all C 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; 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.



#### Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

LSB 761



- 1 Rock of A ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my self in Thee;
- 2 Not the la-bors of my hands Can ful-fill Thy Law's de-mands;
- 3 Noth-ing in my hand I bring; Sim ply to Thy cross I cling
- 4 While I draw this fleet ing breath, When mine eye lids close in death,



Let the wa-ter and the blood, From Thy riv-en side which flowed, Could my zeal no res-pite know, Could my tears for-ev-er flow, Na-ked, come to Thee for dress; Help-less, look to Thee for grace; When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r. A11 for sin could not a - tone: Thou must save, and Thou a - lone. Foul, the foun-tain fly; Wash Ι to me, Sav - ior, or Ι die. A - ges, cleft for me, Let hide Thee. Rock of me my - self in

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78 Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon:** 

"Free at Last" Romans 8:18-27

Stana

**Prayer of the Church** 

Sit

# Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)

**Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only)** – Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle.

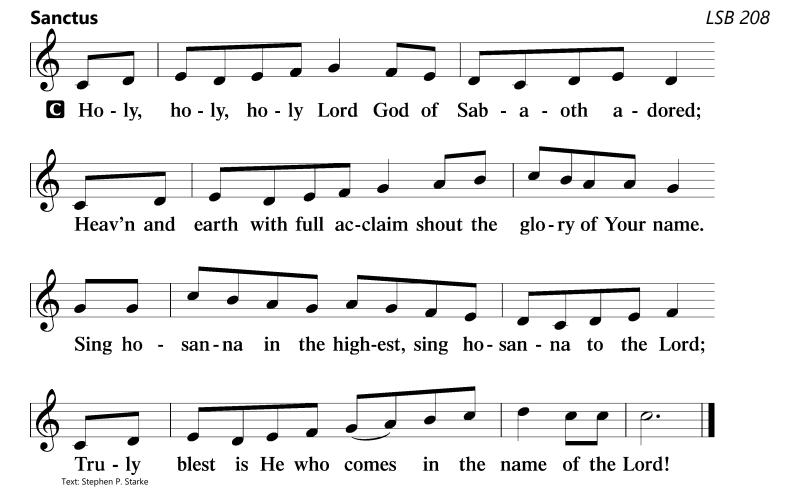
## Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface LSB 208

- $\mathbf{P}$  The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

- P Lift up your hearts.
- **@** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- 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 singing:



## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P 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

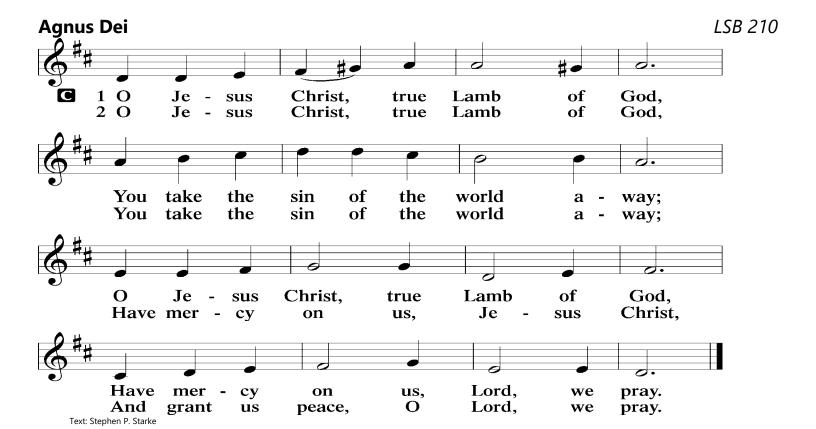
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My 

→ 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.

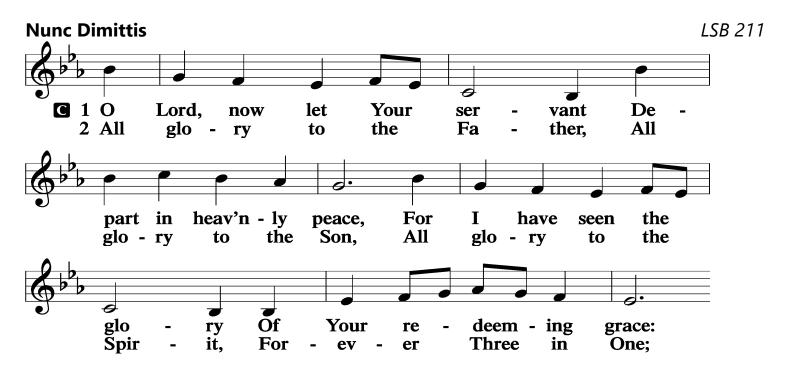


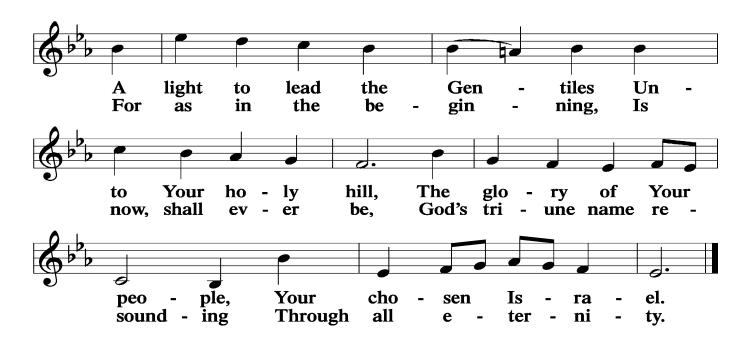
Sit **Distribution:** 

## **Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)**

LSB 752 Be Still, My Soul LSB 763 When Peace, like a River

Stand





#### **Post-Communion Collect**

## (Saturday)

- P Let us pray together.
- I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## (Sunday)

**P** Let us pray.

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 LSB 212

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### **Benediction**

P 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.

**G** Amen.



#### **Postlude:**

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## **LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Pastor	•	
Organist	Caleb Hazzard	
Saturday		
Elder	•	
Lector		
Audio	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox	
Sunday		
Elder	Steve Rosane	
Lector		
Greeter		
Audio	•	
Video		
	GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox	
Altar Guild	Sandy Spanier and Dawn Peters	
LEADING AND ASSISTING IN	WORSHIP NEVT SHAIDAV	
LEADING AND ASSISTING IN		
Pastor	•	
Organist		
Elder		
Lector		
GreeterAudio	, ,	
Video		
	GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox	
Altar Guild	•	
ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK		
Saturday Worship Attendance	27	
Sunday Worship Attendance		
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	\$0	
Simply Giving/Vanco	\$0	
Paypal Offerings		
Website (ShareFaith)		
Total of Offerings Received		
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0	

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Pentecost VIII** – The people of God dare not confuse weeds with wheat. His Word clearly distinguishes His gifts from counterfeits. For our neighbor's sake and our own, we must recognize the enemy's doings (Matthew 13:27-28). Abortion, embryocide, and euthanasia are the devil's deceptions. Jesus Christ alone decides life and death for us (Isaiah 44:6), and His timing never withholds any bounties or glories (Romans 8:18).

**FLOWER SPONSOR-** No Flower Sponsor this week.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR** – No Bulletin Sponsor this week.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** – The Stewardship Committee will today, Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, after service.

**PAPER PUPKIN CLUB** – Paper Pumpkin Club will meet this Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm.

**VOLUNTEER READERS** – We are looking for a couple of volunteers who would be willing to serve as readers at the Saturday night services. If you can help, please contact Debbie Smith at 863-399-2411 or at <a href="mailto:des1954@gmail.com">des1954@gmail.com</a>. Thank you in advance.

MARY MARTHA COLLECTION - Mary Martha is collecting baby items to take to the LWML District retreat in St Augustine in September. These "gifts from the heart," will go to the not-for- profit St Gerard Maternity Home whose mission is to serve pregnant young women who are in need of support. The services there are free and available to all women in the community. There is a box in the narthex to collect needed donation items: Diapers, all sizes, wipes, formula, burp cloths, diaper cream, pacifiers, swaddling blankets and toiletries for the mommies! Please contact Charlotte Mantz (863-409-6270) or Joyce Munz (863-430-1130.) Pick up is available for those who cannot bring to Church!

**UNDIES SUNDAY'S** - August will be our collection month for "Undie Sunday's." We will be collecting new undies for all sizes - children through adult, however, an urgent need has been given to us by both the Talbot House and Central American Missions for toddler sizes - boys and girls- undies and socks as well. A box is available in the narthex. These can be brought in at any time, but August will be our drive!

**DREAM CENTER VOLUNTEERS** – Volunteers are needed to help check- in and sort items here at Christ Lutheran for the Dream Center. Please see or contact Robin Fox at 863-513-4774 to schedule a day and time to volunteer.

**RECIPES WANTED** - Mary Martha is collecting favorite recipes for the Church Cookbook. If you have a favorite recipe and would be willing to share it, please write it legibly, sign your name on it and put it in the box located in the Narthex. There is no limit to number of recipes you can submit.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY** – For those that are not aware, our church member directory is now available online. Please see the flyer sheets in the narthex for more information or email Kim Kaniecki at stewardship@clclakeland.org.

**TRUSTEE VOLUNTEER DAY** – Every Tuesday from 9 am -1 pm. If you would like to help with the various needs of the church, come join us. A job, whether large or small can be found to help with. If you notice something you think needs attention, come let us know. Thanks for helping.

**GREETERS NEEDED** – Volunteers are needed to be Greeters in the Narthex to welcome guest and members as they enter for service. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board.

**NAMETAGS** – We would like to encourage all our members to please wear their nametags to church. If you can't find your nametag or don't have one, please sign-up for one on the bulletin board in the Narthex of the church.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Romans 8:18 – "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel — if we keep our focus on "the glory to be revealed" we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

#### THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Tuesday	Trustee Workday @ 9 am
Wednesday	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Bible Study @ Noon
	Private Communion @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Thursday	Paper Pumpkin Club @ 6:30 pm
Friday	
Saturday	Bible Study @ 4 pm
	Worship @ 5:30 pm
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship Service @ 10 am
	Bible Study @ 11:15 am