The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023

As We Gather - When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was "bound with chains as a criminal" (2 Timothy 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy "the time of my departure has come" (2 Timothy 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: "Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:11–12a). Paul's words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

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.

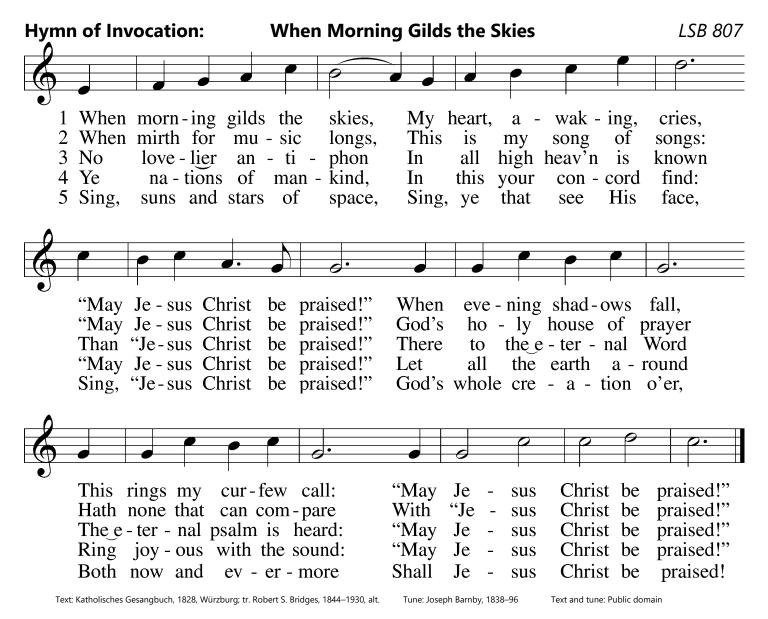
GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

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



Stand

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

- 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,
- **©** 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, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

- I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.
 What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?
- I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
- P O LORD, I am your servant;
 I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.
- 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.

 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.



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

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204



In the carth; 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray; 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly 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.
- And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

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

Epistle *Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30*

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

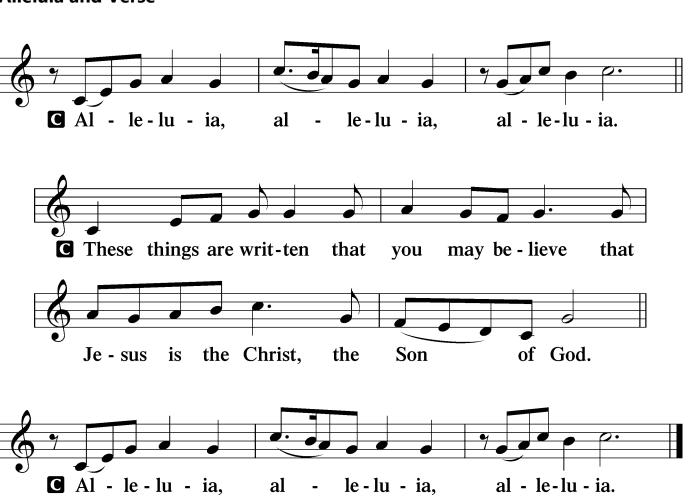
¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Matthew 20:1–16

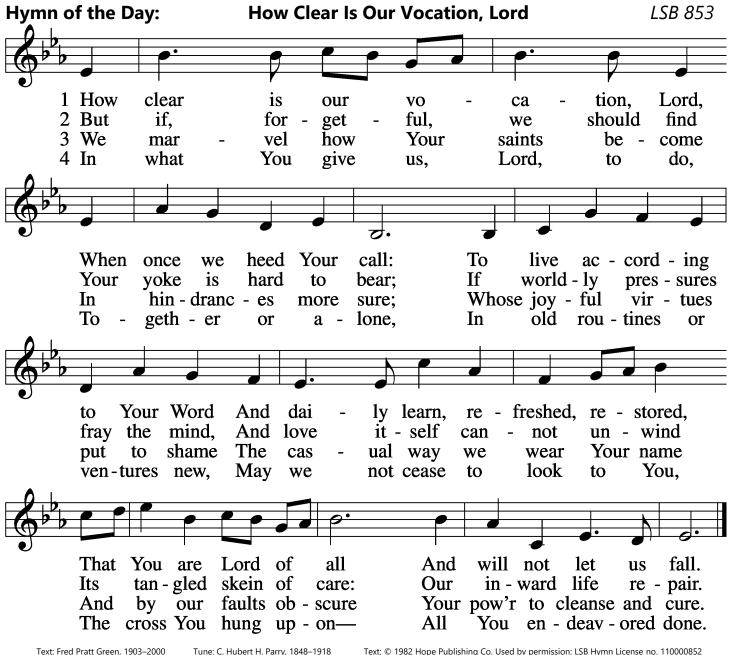
- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' 5So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' 9And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

Apostles' Creed

Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.



Tune: Public domain

Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Sermon:

"Sticking Around" Philippians 1:19-30

Stand

Prayer of the Church

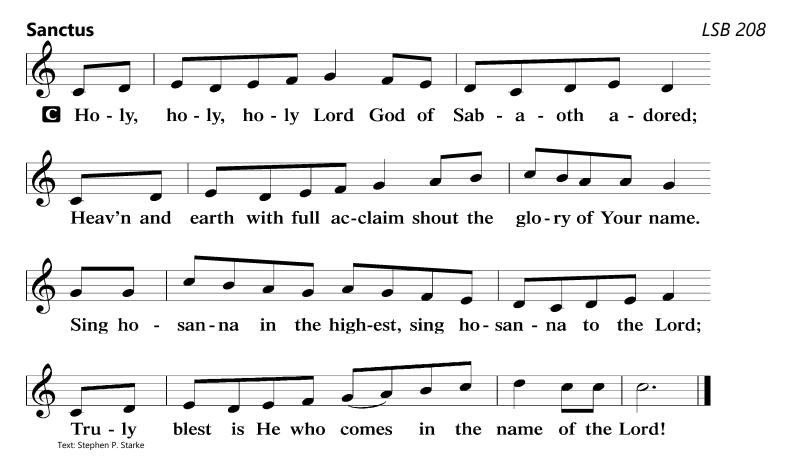
Sit

Bless His Holy Name Choir Anthem: Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only) by Andre Crouch

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

Preface LSB 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **G** 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

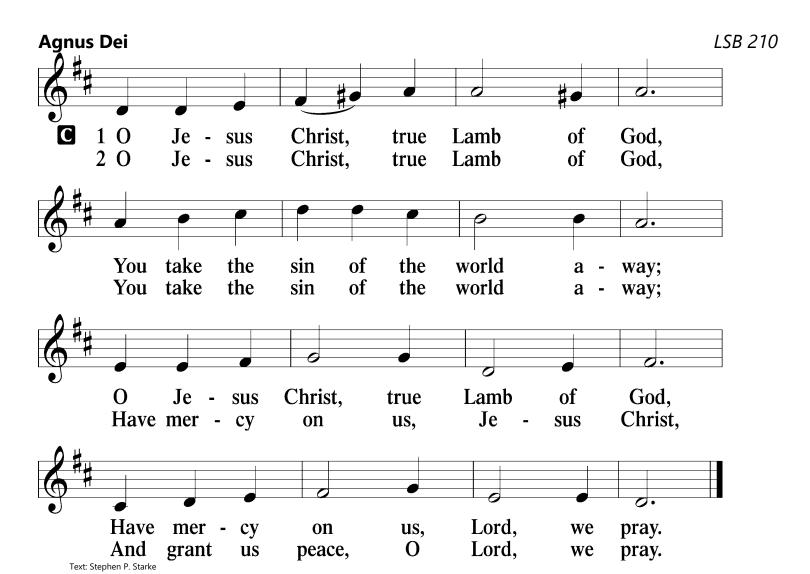
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

→ 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 738 Lord of All Hopefulness LSB 930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord



LSB 211



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.

Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

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

Benediction

- 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.



LSB 827



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je sus call-ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
- 2 Some take up His task in morn-ing, To their Lord re-spond-ing soon;
- as rain and snow from heav-en Wa ter seeds in
- the Lord whose com-ing Marks the time when grace shall end, 4 Hear - ken to



are white and har-vests wait-ing—Who will bear the sheaves a - way?" Fields are called in heat of mid-day, Oth-ers late in Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil: When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo-ry shall de-scend.



call - eth; Rich re-ward He of - fers Loud and long the Mas - ter set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields, E - ven the sun is the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease. Soon the night, the



Who will an-swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"? There to gath-er in the boun-ty That God's Word so rich - ly yields. Nev - er void to Him re-turn-ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in-crease. fruit with great in-crease. Then the souls His grace has gar-nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

Text (st. 1): Daniel March, 1816-1909, alt.; (sts. 2-4): Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96

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Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
_	
Saturday	
Elder	Lee Crapo
Lector	Rick Smith/Gerie Slaten
	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox
Sunday	
	Steve Rosane
	Charlotte Mantz
	Bob and Cheryl Langanke
	Maria Hazzard
	Video TD: Josiah Hazzard
	GFX/ Stream: Andrea Hazzard and Judi Rudolph
Altar Guild	

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
_	Lee Crapo
	Joanne Shepker
	Video TD:
	GFX: / Stream:
Altar Guild	Sandy Spanier and Janette Williams

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship Attendance	33
Sunday Worship Attendance	
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	
Simply Giving/Vanco	\$0
Paypal Offerings	
Website (ShareFaith)	
Total of Offerings Received	
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH - Pentecost XVII— Abortion and euthanasia begrudge God's generosity (Matthew 20:15) by regarding one life as less than another. Thank the Lord that His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8), for none of us deserves to survive! Yet He preserves and protects us still, just as much as our every neighbor. O Lord, make us bold to speak Your Word of Life without fear (Philippians 1:14)!

FLOWER SPONSOR– No flower sponsor this week.

BULLETIN SPONSOR – Dave and Lora Wacker are the bulletin sponsors this week.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE – The Endowment Fund Committee will meet today, Sunday, September 24th following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Choir Room. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Committee. Helen Borgwardt, Chairperson.

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS THURSDAY– This week's Thursday Bible Study is cancelled as Pastor will be out of the office attending the President's Equip Conference.

ELDERS MEETING – The Elders will meet next Sunday, October 1st, after Service.

LWML WINTER HAVEN ZONE RALLY – The Winter Haven Zone Rally will be at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 14th, from 9AM – 2PM. Cost is \$10 and a \$5 donation for Young Woman's Rep. A continental breakfast and light lunch will be served.

CLC NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY –Outreach is having a Neighborhood Block Party on Saturday, October 14th from 11AM to 3PM. We will have grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, etc. Volunteers are needed. There will be two shifts - 9AM to 12:30PM and 12:30PM to 4 PM. There is a Volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Church members are invited to come and meet your fellow church members and our neighbors.

UPDATE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE –We have been blessed with people willing to use their talents to serve as President and Vice President of our congregation. However, we still need to fill the following positions of Treasurer (2 Year Term), Christian Education (1 Year Term), and Youth (1 Year Term). Elections will be during the November Voters' meeting. The new officers will begin serving in January 2024. For more information, please contact Pastor Thomas Block (863-853-9792) or Carol Ceaglske (863-660-2426). This is a blessed opportunity to use your talents helping with God's work.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Volunteers are needed for the fellowship teams which will begin Sunday October 1st and will end on Sunday, May 19th. Light snacks to be served after the service in the Fellowship Hall to enhance our Christian family and fellowship, welcome visitors, and our winter visitors. A minimum of six teams is needed with at least 5-6 people on each team. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

CLC BAZAAR & CRAFT PREPARATIONS – It's time again to reserve a space for the Christ Lutheran Church Bazaar & Craft Sale. This year the sale will be on Saturday, November 11, 2023, from 9am – 1pm, and will cover two holidays – Thanksgiving and Christmas. The non-refundable fee for inside the Fellowship Hall is still just \$25.00 which includes two chairs and an approx. 8X6 space which is air conditioned or if you would rather be outside in the courtyard a space is \$20. Both options have electricity available, you will need to supply your own extension cord. You can bring your own table but it must fit in the 8X6 space or you can rent a table from Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) for \$10.00, please let me know if you want a table when you reserve your space. Space is first come first serve. Make checks payable to CLC Church with "Bazaar" written in the memo line. Each vendor is ask to donate one item from their table for the Door Prize table. For more information or questions, please contact Belinda Freer at johnjuke2@aol.com or call 863-602-5159. Proceeds will be given to a local non-profit.

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 - Matthew 20:9 – "And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius." Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His generosity.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Tuesday	Trustee Workday @ 9 am
	Quilters @ 10 am
Wednesday	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Private Communion @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Jr. Confirmation Class @ 7 pm
	Choir @ 7 pm
ThursdayPr	esident's Equip Conference through Saturday– Orlando
	No Bible Study
	Paper Pumpkin Club @ 6:30 pm
Friday	Church Office closed, Pastor's Day Off
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship Service @ 10 am
	Bible Study @ 11:15 am
	Elders meeting

