# St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Fifteenth Sunday After Pentacost September 21, 2025

**As We Gather -** "I am baptized!" Our Baptism is not something to leave in the back of our thoughts as we live through each day. It is, rather, a gracious event by God to unite us to Christ and forgive our sins. That needs to be reinforced in one another's lives with joy. We thank and praise our gracious God that He has brought us into His family to be the children of God. We need to regularly remind ourselves of our Baptism and the rich blessings we receive through it. As children of God, it is our great privilege to go out and gladly tell others, "I am baptized!"

**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)

### **PREPARATION**



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

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

- **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,
- **©** 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



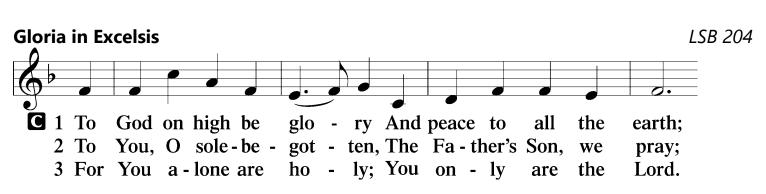
From Psalm 92 and Matthew 9

- P I desire mercy, and not | sacrifice.\*
  for I came not to call the righteous, but | sinners.
- It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*
  to sing praises to your name, | O Most High;
- to declare your steadfast love in the | morning,\* and your faithful- | ness by night,
- to the music of the lute | and the harp,\*
  to the melody | of the lyre.

- For you, O LORD, have made me glad | by your work;\* at the works of your hands I | sing for joy.
- Your thoughts are | very deep!
  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.
  I desire mercy, and not | sacrifice.\*
  For I came not to call the righteous, but | sinners.



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





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.

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

Sit

# **Old Testament Reading**

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

<sup>8</sup>"But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." <sup>9</sup>And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. <sup>10</sup>And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

<sup>1</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." <sup>2</sup>So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

<sup>4</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. <sup>5</sup>For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— <sup>6</sup>not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup>But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. <sup>8</sup>Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

<sup>9</sup>Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." <sup>10</sup>Moreover, he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. <sup>11</sup>And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."

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

**Epistle** Ephesians 4:7–16

<sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it says,

"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

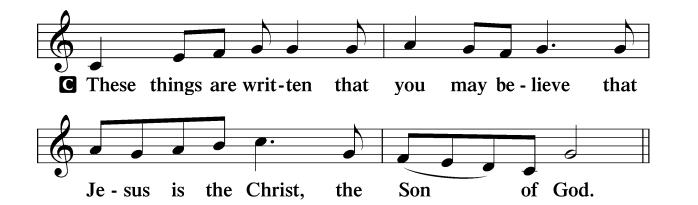
<sup>9</sup>(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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

Stand

### **Alleluia and Verse**







Holy Gospel Matthew 9:9–13

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

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

- **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 things visible and invisible.

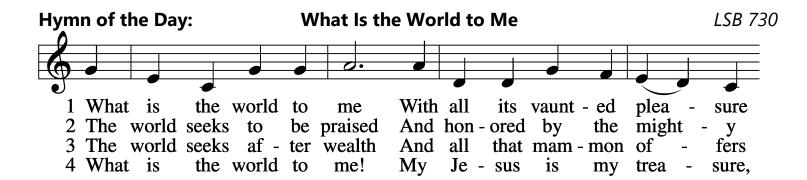
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven 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.

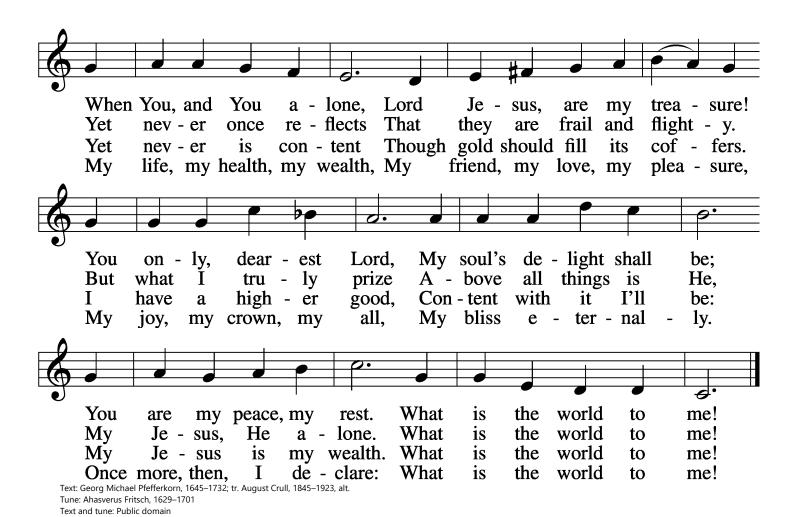
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission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

Sit

### Children's Sermon







Sermon

"Sinners Wanted" Matthew 9:9-13

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Grace Alone" arrangement by Tom Fenke

**Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)** 

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

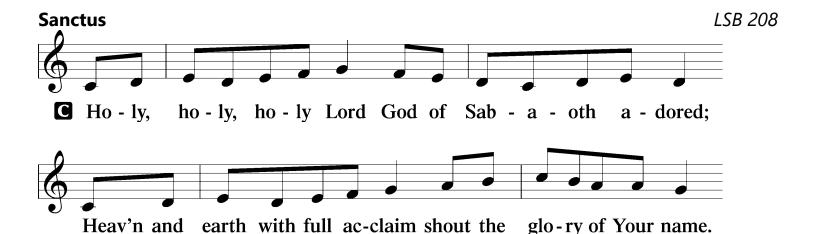
Stand

# **Prayer of the Church**

# Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 208

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

You once proclaimed Your saving promise through the prophets of Israel, and by the apostles and evangelists You published the good news of Your saving promise fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Grant that we, being instructed in the doctrine of the blessed apostles and evangelists, may faithfully eat His body and drink His blood and declare His salvation to all the world.

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

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.

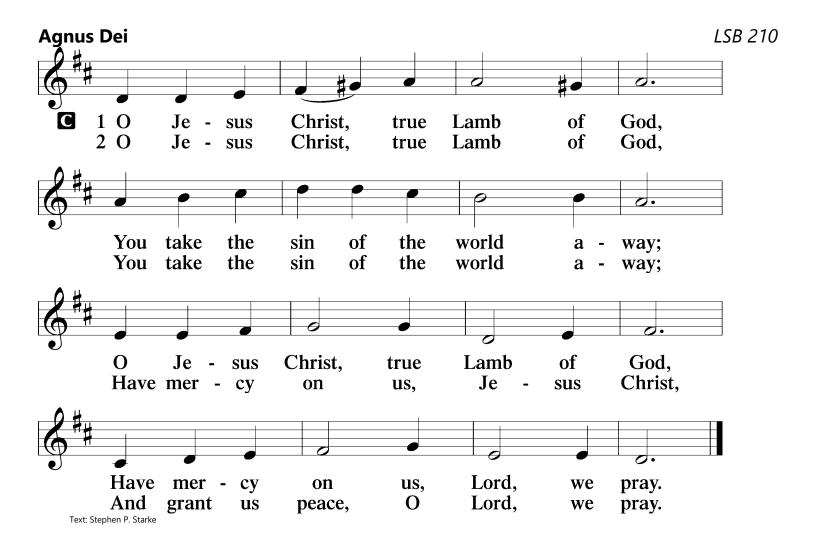
### The Words of Our Lord

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.

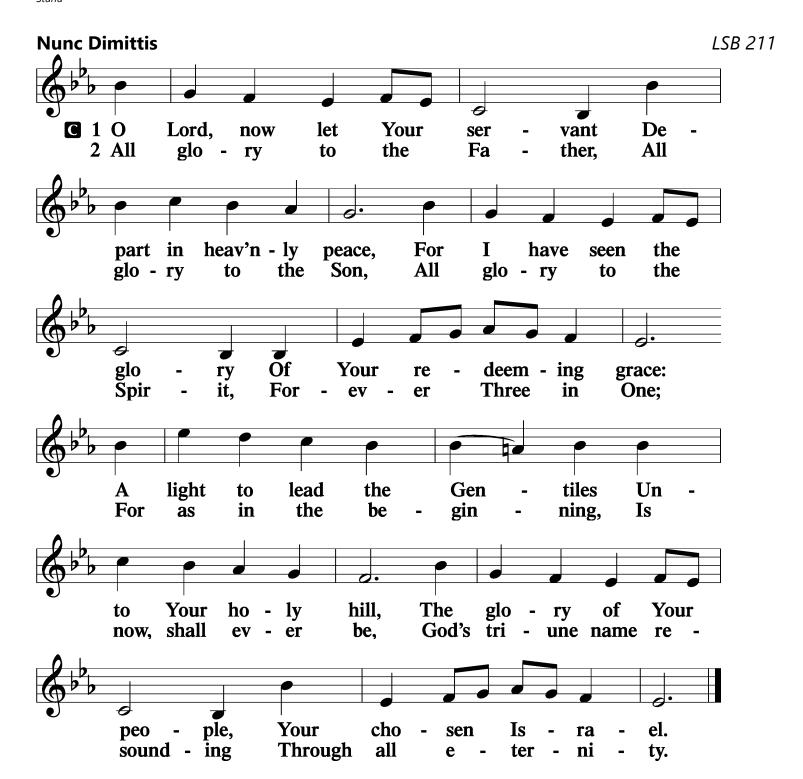


## **Distribution:**

# **Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)**

# LSB 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive LSB 727 On Eagles' Wings

Stand



### **Post-Communion Collect**

# (Saturday)

- **P** Let us pray.
- 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.

**G** Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

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

### **Benediction**

- C Amen.



### The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644 sts. 1-5



- 1 The Church's one foun da tion Is Je sus Christ, her Lord;
- 2 E lect from ev 'ry na tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
- 3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
- 4 Through toil and trib u la tion And tu mult of her war
- 5 Yet she on earth has u nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: By schisms rent a - sun - der, She waits the con - sum - ma - tion And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion By wa - ter and the Word. One Lord, one faith, one birth. By her - e - sies dis-tressed, Of peace for - ev - er - more With those whose rest is won.



came and sought her His From heav'n He To ho - ly bride: be name she bless - es, Par - takes One ho - ly one ho - lv food. saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry Yet goes up, "How long?" vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are Till with the blest. bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save by Your grace us



With His own blood He bought her, And for life He died. her she press - es With ev - 'ry And to one hope en - dued. grace And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song. And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church rest. at saints be - fore That we, like us. May see You face face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76 Text and tune: Public domain

### **Postlude:**

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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# LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>TODAY</u>

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
<u>Saturday</u>	
Organist	
Elder	Steve Rosane
Lector	Gerie Slaten
<u>Sunday</u>	
Elder	
Lector	Kim Kaniecki
Greeter	Kim Kaniecki
Audio	Kyle Welch
Video	Video/Streaming: Kris Welch
	GFX: Roland Feickert
Altar Guild	Sandy Spanier and John T. Doherty, Jr.

# LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
	Elena Miraztchiyska
	Frank Decker
Lector	John T. Doherty, Jr.
	Bob and Cheryl Langanke
	Matthew Alexis
Video	Video/Streaming: Josiah Hazzard
	GFX: Andrea Hazzard
Altar Guild	Sandy Spanier and John T. Doherty, Jr.

### ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship Attendance	.25
Sunday Worship Attendance	
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	\$0
Simply Giving/Vanco	
Paypal Offerings	
Website (ShareFaith)	\$0
Total of Offerings Received	\$0
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH** – St. Matthew - First-century tax collectors like Matthew exploited their neighbors, their own kin, for personal profit. Yet Jesus in forgiveness and fellowship made them an illustration of how family ought to be treated (even when embryos or elderly relatives make us uncomfortable). Let us, like the repentant evangelist, proclaim how Christ crucified can release even from abortion's guilt.



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWER SPONSOR** - David and Lora Wacker, in celebration of the first birthday of their granddaughter Bristol.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR** - Henry and Judy Veal for the Glory of God.

<u>MARY MARTHA QUILTERS</u> - Mary Martha Quilters meet each Wednesday at 10am. All ladies from the congregation are invited to come. You don't have to be a quilter or know how to sew as we need people who can cut, arrange, and tie.

**DISTRICT PASTORS CONFERENCE** – Pastor Hazzard will be attending the District Pastors Conference in Daytona Beach on Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup> through Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>. If needed, please contact one of the Elders during his absence.

**ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE MEETING** -The Endowment Fund Committee will be having their next meeting on Sunday, September 28th following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Zoom Room, 1st door on the right in the Fellowship all. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Committee. Helen Borgwardt, Chairperson.

**LWML SUNDAY** - will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2025. **"Proclaiming Christ"** is our theme. A dinner for the congregation will be held that day after Worship.

<u>COMMUNITY GARDEN</u> – Check out our community garden! Help yourself to herbs and flowers, right outside the kitchen door! Lori Wacker

<u>THRIVENT CHOICE</u> - Did you know? If you have a Thrivent Life Insurance policy, you can donate "Choice Dollars" to our church. This gift doesn't affect your policy in any way, but is a wonderful way to support the church financially! Follow this link for more information: <u>Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing - Thrivent Charitable</u>

<u>ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP</u> – Sign-up sheets through August 2026 are now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each sheet will now be posted quarterly, by season, so that as a season passes, a new sheet will be put up, rather than one sheet used for the entire year. There are still some spaces open for the remainder of 2025. It would be a blessing to see those filled! Additional information is available on the poster, immediately next to the signup sheets. Specially designated envelopes are available below the poster. Altar flower offerings go toward our Christmas and Easter live flowers, as well as toward the proper upkeep and refreshing of our silk arrangements used throughout the year.

<u>ALTAR GUILD 2026</u> - Altar Guild teams for 2026 are being formed. If you are interested in joining Altar Guild, we would welcome some new members! Full training on our procedures will be provided. Please contact Dawn Peters or Charlene Rosane. We will also begin calling current team members in the coming weeks, as we begin the process of forming the 2026 schedule, to find out your availability for the coming year. A brief meeting will be scheduled some time this fall, the date to be decided.



**HELP WANTED**- The Church is in need of workers in several positions around the Church. These include Ushers, Offering Counters, Altar Guild, Lectors, Sound Board, Video Assistance, Elders (requires one year

membership, and many other opportunities to serve. Please consider using your time and talents in some way here at Christ Lutheran.

<u>ADOPT-A-BLOCK</u> – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – To reserve your spot on the team or if you have questions, please contact either Robin Fox or Pastor Chris.

**TRUSTEE WORKDAY** - The Trustee Workday is each Wednesday from 9am – 1pm. 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.

**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.

**CHECK YOUR MAILBOX** - Please check your mailbox in the Narthex.

**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 <a href="mailto:stewardship@clclakeland.org">stewardship@clclakeland.org</a>.

**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**

*Luke 16:8b* – "For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light." The sons of this world know that they should use their wealth wisely to provide for their future. Shouldn't we, as "sons of light," know that the wealth God has allowed us to manage should be managed for God's purposes in roles He has given us to play in church, home and society?







# THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Monday – 9/22	Pastors Conference
Tuesday – 9/23	Adopt-A-Block @ 11 am
	Pastors Conference
Wednesday – 9/24	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Trustee Workday @ 9 am
	Quilters @ 10 am
	Choir Practice @ 7 pm
	Pastors Conference
	Bible Study @ 10 am
Friday – 9/26	Church Office closed
	Pastor's day off
	Worship @ 5:30 pm
Sunday – 9/28	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship @ 10 am