

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
August 30th, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost
Pastor Stephanie Newman

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude

John Joannette

GATHERING *(Please Stand)*

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." People of God, hear the good news: In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are indeed forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C; Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of Christ knows no stanger

C: We share that peace with on another.

Gathering Hymn "Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" ELW 807 (Vs.1-3)

The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Cross-Gen Song

"God Welcomes All"

ACS 978 (twice)

Cross-Generation Message

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore thus, says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8

The Psalm will be read responsively

A: Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

C: Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

A: For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

C: I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

A: I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

C: I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, that I may go in procession round your altar,

A: singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

C: Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation will please stand as able & comfortable

Gospel Verse

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"
(Lights off after Gospel Verse)

ELW 172

The Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to: **Matthew 16: 21-28**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be

raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Congregation will please be seated

The Sermon

Pastor Stephanie Newman

*The Congregation will please stand as able
(Lights on after Sermon)*

Hymn of the Day

“Amazing Grace”

ELW 779 (Vs.1,2,4.5)

** Pass Info Slips to Side Aisle and Prayer cards to the inside aisle*

Installation and Blessing of Congregation Council

P: Dear friends in Christ, in Holy Baptism we are called into the life and work of Christ. Each of us is given gifts by the Holy Spirit—not simply for ourselves, but for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and the world God loves. Today we give thanks for those who have answered a particular call to serve as members of our Congregation Council. *Council members are invited forward and introduced.*

P: Scripture reminds us:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. The Spirit's presence is shown in each person for the good of all.

To our Council members: You have been entrusted with positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are called to listen faithfully, seek God's wisdom, care for the ministry and people of this church, and help us live out our calling to love God and love our neighbor. Will you serve with humility and courage, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, listen to one another, and use the gifts God has given you for the good of this congregation and our community?

Council: We will, with the help of God.

P: Will you seek to be examples of faith active in love, remembering that Christian leadership is not about power or position, but service—and that Christ himself showed us the way by serving others?

Council: We will, with the help of God.

P: And now, people of God, these leaders do not serve alone. They are part of this body, and the ministry of this congregation belongs to all of us. Will you pray for these leaders, encourage them, speak with them honestly and graciously, and support them in the work they have been called to do?

Church: We will, with the help of God.

P: Will you also offer your own gifts, share in the work of ministry, care for one another, and join these leaders in serving our neighbors and following where the Holy Spirit leads us?

C: We will, with the help of God.

P: Then I declare you installed as members of the Congregation Council.

May God give you wisdom to listen, courage to lead, humility to learn, grace for one another, and joy in serving. And may all of us remember that we share this ministry together—many gifts, many people, but one body in Christ.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for these servants and for all who offer themselves in your name. Bless these leaders with wisdom and courage. Give them patience when decisions are difficult, grace when there is disagreement, and joy in the work you have given them to do. Bless this congregation as well. Teach us to support one another, to speak the truth in love, to use our gifts generously, and to remember that none of us does this work alone. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that together our words and our actions might reflect the love of Jesus Christ and serve the good of our neighbors and your world.

C: Amen.

Apostles Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

A: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,

C; receive our prayer.

A: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We bring now the prayers sitting quietly in our hearts, and the ones we need to speak aloud.

(pause)

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered

.P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Offering

Special Music
Offertory

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW 465 (refrain only)

Offering Prayer

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

Communion

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.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and grave, by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way to everlasting life. And so, with the church on earth, the hosts of heaven, and all creation that sings of your glory, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!"

ELW 413 (Vs.1)

Invitation to the Table

P: This table is a place where the hungry are fed, the weary find rest, the broken discover healing, and sinners receive grace.

C: We do not come because we have earned a place here. We come because Jesus has invited us.

P: So come with your joys and your burdens, your questions and your confidence, your faith and even your doubts. Come just as you are, trusting that Christ meets us here.

C: Here, ordinary bread becomes a holy promise. Here, an ordinary cup becomes extraordinary grace.

Here, we are reminded that before we are anything else, we are God's beloved.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and trust Christ's promise to come again.
This is Christ's feast of grace. Come, for all is prepared.
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, and with Christians throughout every time and place, let us pray as our Savior taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: This is the table of grace. Come, share in the abundance!

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God	<i>"Now Behold the Lamb"</i>	ELW 341 (Vs.1)
Communion Distribution		

Communion Hymns	<i>"By Your Hand, You Feed Your People"</i>	ELW 469 (1-3)
	<i>"Soul Adorn Yourself"</i>	ELW 488 (1-4)
	<i>"I Am the Bread of Life"</i>	ELW 485 (1-5)
	<i>"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"</i>	ELW 461 (1-3)

Prayer after Communion

P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with The abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share Your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

(The Congregation will please stand as able and comfortable)

Pastor's Blessing

Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

ELW 547 (Vs.1-2)

Dismissal

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.