

**Time After Pentecost
September 1, 2024**

Christ Lutheran Church - Cottonwood, Minnesota

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.
We pray you will feel the Spirit and welcome of this faith community,
and we look forward to seeing you again!**



Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

(from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2023)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORDS OF WELCOME

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING WORDS OF FAITH

from Psalm 15

P: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

All: Who may dwell on your hill?

P: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

All: who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors.

P: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

All: in whose eyes the wicked are despised.

P: But who honor those who fear the Lord;

All: those who do these things shall never be moved.

GATHERING HYMN “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW# 656

Please rise in body or spirit.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We come to worship in the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: Let us come now into worship, confessing our sin in the presence of God and of one another, so that we might hear God’s Word for our lives and seek to do God’s will.

All: Amen.

(Silence for a time of self-reflection)

P: Reconciling God,

All: you have called us to be your presence in the world, and you desire that we should welcome others and offer the life and joy of Christ to all those we encounter. Yet too often we honor you only with our lips and not with our hearts. We harbor resentment; we think evil thoughts; we even speak malicious words and act in ways that hurt and harm. In your great mercy, forgive our sins and cleanse our hearts and minds. Help us to see the world through the eyes of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God ✠ forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

KYRIE

page 147 (*in front of hymnal*)

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray: God of the covenant,

All: we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by this example, point us to the path of obedience, and open all hearts to everything you have to offer; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

ELW# 759

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God

THE SECOND READING

James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: **Thanks be to God**

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia"

ELW# 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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Music Caribbean Traditional

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GOSPEL READING

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Janel Kuester

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

ELW# 772

Please rise in body or spirit.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

All: 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 to the dead. 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 GOD’S PEOPLE

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, “hear our prayer.”

SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please share a sign of God’s peace with one another.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

OFFERING AND MUSIC

For your convenience, you can give by snapping on the QR Code to the right.

Thank you for your generosity.



Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father, you have filled all creation with light and life.

All: The heavens and the earth are full of your glory.

P: Through the ages of time, you have spoken and renewed your promise to every generation.

All: And in sending your Son, you have revealed your kingdom and proclaimed your power.

P: So we give thanks to you, O Lord, for the salvation which you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

All: Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in this holy supper.

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 the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

UNENDING HYMN

“O Christ, Lamb of God”

on the next page

UNENDING HYMN

“O Christ, Lamb of God”

ELW# 196

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - men.

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>“Lamb of God”</i>	ELW# 336
<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	ELW# 471
<i>“One Bread, One Body”</i>	ELW# 496
<i>“Taste and See”</i>	ELW# 493

*Anyone who has communed elsewhere is welcome to commune here.
Those who do not yet commune are invited to come forward for a blessing.
Grape juice and gluten-free bread are available upon request.
Please come forward at the invitation of the ushers to receive communion while kneeling or standing at the altar rail, then return to your seats via the side aisles.
If you prefer to receive communion at your seat, please let the ushers know.*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world

CLOSING LITANY—LABOR DAY WEEKEND

P: As summer gives way to a new season, we pause to remember and give thanks for the beauty of these months now past.

All: With grateful hearts, we praise you, O Lord, for this season of renewal, of recreation, of beauty and growth. We thank you for the all of the opportunities we have had to rest from our labors and find joy in our creation.

L: We thank you for those times of a slower pace, for quieter and longer days, for the peaceful moments.

All: We thank you for the times of travel, for new adventures, for time with friends and family, for making memories.

P: But now we turn to you, O Lord, as one season melts into another, and we seek your blessing on these future days.

All: We commend to you the return to our busier days, our growing children, our daily vocations, our church commitments, our opportunities for service in the community and in the world.

L: We look to you for guidance and strength in all we do.

All: We ask you to give us wisdom as we go about our tasks, joy in daily life and the strength we need for you each day.

P: But most of all, we recognize that as the seasons come and go, you, O Lord, are constant and sure.

All: And so we entrust our yesterdays, our todays and all our tomorrows into your loving hands. Amen.

SENDING BLESSING

P: God almighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW# 768

SENDING WORDS

L: Go in peace. Christ is sending you.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Liturgy pieces from Sundays and Seasons © Augsburg Fortress.

Scripture readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

2024-2025 September Milestone Dates—Mark Your Calendars

*All Milestone Ministry presentations happen during
Sunday Worship Services are at 9:30 am*

Sun, Sept 8—First Year Confirmation Students Receive Lutheran Study Bibles

Sun, Sept 15—3 Year Olds - Welcome to Sunday School

Sun, Sept 29—2nd Graders receive Spark Bibles and Small Catechisms

— Thank You For Serving This Sunday, September 1, 2024 —

Ushers: Jonathan Olson, Milo Brusven, Greg Golberg, Conner Moseng, Corey Moseng, Michelle Moseng, Cal Teske

Musician: Krishana Dempcy

Acolyte: Aubrey Pederson

Assisting Minister: Amy Jo Remmele

Communion Servers: Aubrey Pederson and Tucker Anderson, Tracy Sterner, Susanne Lee, Christine Wiatrowski

PA: Shawn Myers and Larry Isaackson

Video: Erik Lundberg and Sidnee Olson

Altar Care: Karen Berg and Pat Hinz

Counters: Greg Golberg and Michelle Moseng

Clothed With Love: Krista Listul

This Week's Calendar

Today, Sunday, September 1: Time After Pentecost

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

Monday, September 2: Labor Day

Office Closed for the Holiday

Wednesday, September 4:

6:00 pm Mission Possible Orientation/Registration Night

Sunday, September 8: Time After Pentecost

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Preschool Sunday School Orientation/Registration

9:30 am Worship –Milestone Ministry: First Year Confirmation

Students Receive Lutheran Study Bibles

7:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting



Did you know that your church offers communion by request during the week too? This is great for those times you travel, but also for those who work on the weekends. We are more than happy to offer this on a need basis. Please call the church office to schedule with the pastor.

Mark Your Calendars for these Fall Programming Dates

Preschool Sunday School

Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Mandatory Registration and Orientation Night join us on the upper level

Any student age 3 before September 1, 2024 and potty trained through Pre-Kindergarten (typically 3-5 year olds).

Sunday, September 15 9:00-9:25 a.m.

Join us for Sunday School on Sunday mornings. The classroom is located on the upper level of the church.

Mission Possible

Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Mandatory Registration and Orientation Night join us in the sanctuary Kindergarten through Sixth Grade.

Wednesday, September 11 6:00-6:45 p.m.

First Night of Mission Possible - join us for Mission Possible on Wednesday evenings. We will meet in the sanctuary each evening.

Confirmation

Wednesday, September 11 7:00-8:00 p.m.

First Night of Confirmation - we will meet in the Lakeside Room (the room behind the sanctuary) on Wednesday evenings.

Financial Snapshot

Thanks you, thank you, thank you, for all the ways you share yourself, your time, your skills and your financial support in the ministry we share at Christ Lutheran Church.

*Don't forget you can sign up for online giving
or use the QR Code on page 7.*

Financials Through Sunday, August 18		
Giving	Expenses	Over/Short
\$114,341.35	\$116,005.28	\$ (1,663.93)

Clothed With Love is looking for additional members who would have a heart to serve our community in this way. They will also have a sorting day on Sunday, October 20 following worship.

Who

Who are we?

Clothed With Love is a committee made up of volunteers from Christ Lutheran Church & Community Members.

What

What do we do?

Clothed with Love is a non-profit organization, who supplies clothes to children in need at no cost to them.

Where

Where are we located?

Our Resource closet is located at Christ Lutheran Church in Cottonwood, this is where donations are also accepted. We currently provide services to families in the Marshall, Cottonwood, and Granite Falls Areas.

When

When did we start?

Clothed with Love (originally Hunter's Helping Hands) was created in December of 2013.

Why

Why do we do what we do?

We do what we do because we are called as Disciples of Christ to care for those in need. Our guiding scripture is Colossians 3:12. It says "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

Contact

Email: clothedwithlovmn@gmail.com

Phone: (507)-423-5100

Facebook: Clothed with Love

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Jill Boehne, Luther Eidem, Lyle Grove, Holly Ingling, Tiffany Johnson, Teri Kemmer, Brad Marks, Ione Olson, Pastor Dan Streeper, Joyce Warnke

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, and any challenges in their lives. Areas at war: Ukraine and Israel.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Darleen Cole, Jody Mohr, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Sonny and Ione Olson, Laurie Pickthorn, Steve Pederson, Margaret Rewerts, Jim Runholt, June Schwartz

Families of our Congregation:

Zach, Laura, Mally, Collins, and Kennedy Fischer
Perry, Paisley, and Rowan Fossen
Jean Fragodt

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions:

Mfolozi Circuit and ELCSA, Robin’s Nest Children’s Home in Jamaica, Kikatiti Secondary School in Tanzania, and World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)

Grieving Families:

The family of Eyvonne Hoese (Les Marczak’s mother)

Seminarian:

Katherine (Kit) Mackenzie

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