Time After Pentecost
September 13, 2026
Christ Lutheran Church – Cottonwood, Minnesota

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

We love God and others because God first loved us. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love. Jesus states the core of God's law: love God with all you are and have, and love your neighbor as yourself. (Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2025)

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.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 12:32

GATHERING HYMN ***"Lift High the Cross"*** **Stanzas 2 & 3 ELW# 660**

OPENING WORDS OF FAITH Psalm 100
P: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
All: Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

P: Know that the LORD is God.
All: It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Continued on page 2

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
All: and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

P: For the LORD is good;
All: his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:1, 4a

OPENING HYMN ***"Baptized in Water"*** **Stanzas 1 & 3 ELW# 456**

Please rise in body or spirit.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All are invited to make the sign of the cross,
the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✞ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
All: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for a time of self-reflection)

P: Most merciful God,
All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✞ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

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. O Lord God,

All: you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us
5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with
Christ — by grace you have been saved — 6 and raised us up with him and
seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to
come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward
us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is
not your own doing; it is the gift of God — 9 not the result of works, so that no
one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for
good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN ***"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"*** **Stanzas 1 & 2 ELW# 864**

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 8:37-39

[37]No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38]For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39]nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 5:1-5

[1]Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2]through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. [3]And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4]and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5]and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 John 4:7-11

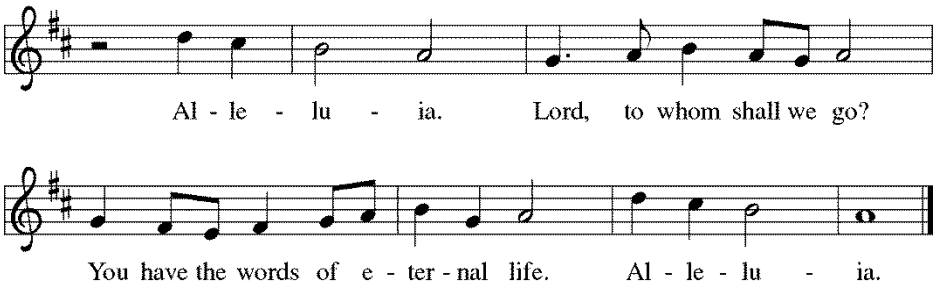
[7]Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. [8]Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. [9]God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. [10]In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. [11]Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

L: Word of God, word of life.
All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN ***"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"*** **Stanzas 1 & 3 ELW# 656**

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ***"Alleluia"*** **ELW page 151** ***(in front of hymnal)***



Public Domain

GOSPEL READINGS Mark 12:28-31; John 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospels according to Mark, the twelfth chapter and John the thirteenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[28]One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" [29]Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; [30]you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' [31]The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

[31]Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. [32]If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. [33]Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' [34]I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. [35]By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

HYMN ***"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*** **ELW# 836**

MESSAGE Pastor Kristine Isder

HYMN OF THE DAY ***"O Savior, Precious Savior"*** **ELW# 820**

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.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.
All: And also with you.

You are invited to either extend a hand or
place your hand on your heart with a verbal greeting of peace

Please be seated.

THANKSGIVING

We respond in gratitude for God's never-failing love and mercy.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

OFFERING AND MUSIC

Besides giving through the offering plate,
you can also give electronically by either visiting
www.christcottonwood.org or by snapping on the
QR Code to the right to set up
a one-time or a recurring gift.

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Living God, we give you the things that are yours: our skills, our time, our possessions, our selves. Bless us and these gifts. Move us to works of faith and labors of love for the good of all your people; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "**Your mercy is great**."*

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.

Please be seated.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE: Romans 15:5-6; 1 Corinthians 16:13

SENDING BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✞ give you peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ***"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*** **ELW# 733**

SENDING WORDS

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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.

This Week's Calendar

Today, September 13: Time after Pentecost

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Sunday School Orientation and Registration
9:30 am Worship

Tuesday, September 15:

9:00 am Quilting
10:00 am Prairie Conference Pastor's Meeting—St. Stephens Lutheran

Wednesday, September 16:

6:00 pm Mission Possible
7:00 pm First Year Confirmation and New Families Mandatory Registration and Orientation Night

Sunday, September 20: Time after Pentecost

Fellowship Time before and after Worship

9:00 am Sunday School
9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Welcome to Sunday School for 3 Year Olds
6:00 pm Prairie Conference Companions with Mfolozi– St. Stephens Lutheran, Marshall

— Thank You For Serving , September 13, 2026 —

Ministers: The People of Christ Lutheran Church
Pastor: Pastor Janel Kuester
Acting Pastor: Kristine Isder
Assisting Ministers: Susanne Lee
Ushers: Parry Bossuyt, Chuck Broberg, Claire Brusven, Josh Brusven, Lydia Brusven, Mike Lee, Jeff Varpness, Lisa Varpness
Musician: Amy Jo Remmele
Acolyte: OPEN
PA: Jonathan Olson and Sidnee Olson
Video: Larry Isaackson and Erik Lundberg
Altar Care: Karen Berg and Pat Hinz
Counters: Nicole Brusven

Can you help out at the Carnival?
We are looking for volunteers to set up, run a game, and clean up.There is a signup sheet in the Lakeside room or contact Stephanie Neuman 612.710.3690. Help is especially needed from 11:15-12:00.

Carnival Fundraiser
The fundraiser is for the Cottonwood Food Pantry. Donations of food or money will be accepted.

Carnival Food
Louba's Lunch Wagon and the Lemon Ladies will be offering food at the Carnival. **Everyone** is welcome to eat!

Greetings,
There will be a gathering of our Prairie Conference Companion committee and interested individuals on September 20, 6:00 PM at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Marshall. A light meal will be provided.

Come and hear a bit about the trip to Mfolozi five individuals from the St. Stephens congregation completed August 3-19. We will also talk about plans to continue to strengthen our bonds with our companions. Hope to see you there on September 20th. - Barb Nelson

2026-2027 Fall Milestone Dates—Mark Your Calendars
All Milestone Ministry presentations happen during Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am
Sun, Sept 20—3 Year Olds - Welcome to Sunday School
Sun, Sept 27—First Year Confirmation Students Receive Lutheran Study Bibles
Sun, October 11—2nd Graders receive Spark Bibles and Small Catechisms (*Class following worship to introduce students to their new Chapter and Verse Bible*)
Sun, Oct 25—2 Year Olds receive their Spark Story Bibles

FINANCIAL UPDATE
Year to Date Financials Through the End of August

Giving	**Expenses**	**+Over/(Short)**
$120,559.76	$140,466.96	($19,907.20))

Thank you for your generosity in the mission we share together at Christ Lutheran Church.

Teachers Needed

The program year is fast approaching. We are still looking for teachers/co-teachers for Preschool Sunday School, Mission Possible, and Confirmation. **All lessons and supplies are written and provided for you**.

Mission Possible – Wednesday Evenings 6:00-6:45
2nd Grade Co-Teacher
5th Grade Teacher/Co-Teacher
Confirmation – Wednesday Evenings 7:00-8:00
1st Year Confirmation Teacher/Co-Teacher

Thank you to everyone who has already said "Yes" to teaching Preschool Sunday School, Mission Possible and Confirmation for the 2026-2027 program year. We are so grateful for you! Please contact Stephanie Neuman (612.710.3690) with any questions. Thank you for considering and for your partnership with our youth programs.

Mark Your Calendars for these Fall Programming Dates

Preschool Sunday School

Sunday, September 13 at 9:00-9:25 a.m.—Program Year Begins
Registration join us on the upper level. Any student age 3 before September 1, 2026 and potty-trained through Pre-Kindergarten (typically 3-5 year olds).

Sunday, September 20—First day, Service Project: **Harvest Bags—all parents requested to attend.**

Mission Possible

Wednesday, September 16 6:00-6:45 p.m.—Program Year Begins
First Night of Mission Possible (Kindergarten through Sixth Grade). We will meet in the sanctuary each evening. First night, Service Project: **Harvest Bags—all parents requested to attend.**

Confirmation

Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. For First Year Confirmation and New Families To The Program.
Mandatory Registration and Orientation Night - join us in the sanctuary. Typically a student in grades 7th-9th. Acolyte and Communion Serving Training and scheduling for the year. Bring your household calendars.

Wednesday, September 23 7:00-8:00 p.m. First Night of Confirmation - we will meet on the lower level to participate in a Service Project for Harvest Bags.

Thank You!

Christ Lutheran Church Members: Thank you for being so friendly and helpful to me as your acting pastor this summer. I really enjoyed being here and getting to know you. - Pastor Kristine Isder

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:

Deb Breyfogle, Diana Bang-Foy, RamziGregoire, Pastor Charles Jackson, Ozzie Idso, David Mensink, Ione Olson, Tim Tweet, Ryan Vance

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

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

Jody Mohr, Donna Neuharth, Sonny and Ione Olson, Laurie Pickthorn, Steve Pederson, Margaret Rewerts, June Schwartz

Families of our Congregation: Tanner, Haleigh, Sutton, and Greyson Alm
Josh, Sara, Danica, and Tucker Anderson
Susan Arends

Seminarian: Vicar Katherine (Kit) Mackenzie serving at Our Saviour's, Canby

Ministry Support:

Mfolozi Circuit and ELCSA, Robin's Nest Children's Home in Jamaica, Kikatiti Secondary School in Tanzania, World Mission Prayer League (WMPL), Cottonwood Food Pantry, Clothed With Love, Hope Harbor, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, Shetek Lutheran Ministries

Christ Lutheran Church Location: 126 Front Street
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, Minnesota 56229
Office Phone and Voice Mail: 507-423-5100
www.christcottonwood.org
Find us on Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN

Acting Pastor Kristine Isder—cell 507.822.6399, kisder001@luthersem.edu
Pastor Janel Kuester—on sabbatical until September 14
Office Administrator, Marian Kalass—christlutheran@christcotton.com
Accounting Assistant, Krista Listul—kristalistul.clc@gmail.com
Custodians, Jon & Jeannette Myrvik
jjmyrvik@icloud.com jonmyrvik@charter.net