



**Matthew 7:15-23**

### Closed Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing. If you arrive too late to do this before the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service.

### Visitors

We welcome you. Please sign the guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor. Also complete a blue attendance card located in the pews and put an X in the ( ) if you will be communing with us. We invite you to join us for Bible Study on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the church.

### The Trinity Season

In the One-Year Lectionary, between Holy Trinity Sunday and the First Sunday in Advent come the Sundays after Trinity, which make up the Trinity Season. The Trinity Season varies in length according to the date of Easter. The Trinity Season is sometimes referred to as the “Time of the Church.” While the readings in the festival half of the Church Year focus on the events of Jesus’ earthly ministry, the readings in the Trinity Season focus on Jesus’ teaching. The idea is that, yes, Jesus was born, suffered, died, rose, ascended, *but now what?* In the Trinity Season we Christians learn how we ought to think, speak, and live until our Lord returns. The color for the Sundays after Trinity is green. Green is the color of life and growth. Grafted into the Tree of Life, we Christians, nourished by Jesus’ Word and Sacraments, grow into mature, fruitful branches. On Trinity Sunday in particular, we confess the historic Athanasian Creed which attests both to the triune nature of God (three persons, one God) and the person and work of Jesus Christ (true God, true man) as substitutionary payment for our sin that gives us redemption back to the right relationship with God. Thanks be to God!

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Thursday, August 7, 2025 – 6:30 PM  
Sunday, August 10, 2025 – 9:00 AM

✠ *In Nomine Iesu* ✠

Opening Hymn *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* LSB 685

Divine Service Setting Four LSB 203

Introit *Psalms 48:1, 3, 11, 14; antiphon: vv. 9–10*  
The congregation chants the verses in **bold** print.

We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,\*  
in the midst of your | temple.  
As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of the earth.\*  
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.

**Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised\***  
**in the city of our God, his holy | mountain.**  
**Within her | citadels\***  
**God has made himself known as a | fortress.**  
**Let Mount Zion | be glad!\***  
**Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your | judgments!**  
**This is God, our God forever and | ever.\***  
**He will guide us for- | ever.**

**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.**

We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,\*  
in the midst of your | temple.  
As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of the earth.\*  
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.

Kyrie LSB 204

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 205

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 23:16–29*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>17</sup>They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”  
<sup>18</sup>For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord  
to see and to hear his word,  
or who has paid attention to his word and listened?  
<sup>19</sup>Behold, the storm of the Lord!  
Wrath has gone forth,  
a whirling tempest;  
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.  
<sup>20</sup>The anger of the Lord will not turn back  
until he has executed and accomplished  
the intents of his heart.  
In the latter days you will understand it clearly.  
<sup>21</sup>“I did not send the prophets,  
yet they ran;  
I did not speak to them,  
yet they prophesied.  
<sup>22</sup>But if they had stood in my council,  
then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,  
and they would have turned them from their evil way,  
and from the evil of their deeds.  
<sup>23</sup>“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? <sup>24</sup>Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ <sup>26</sup>How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, <sup>27</sup>who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common

with wheat? declares the Lord. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

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

**Second Reading** *Acts 20:27–38*

<sup>27</sup>[Paul said:] “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup>And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” <sup>36</sup>And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup>And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup>being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

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

**Alleluia and Verse** LSB 205

**Holy Gospel** *Matthew 7:15–23*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup>[Jesus said:] “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a

diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. <sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

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

**Nicene Creed** LSB 206

**Hymn of the Day** *In God, My Faithful God* LSB 745

**Sermon** *Recognize Them By Their Fruits*

**Prayer of the Church** LSB 207

**Preparation of the Altar**

**Preface** LSB 208

**Sanctus** *Holy Holy Holy* LSB 208

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** LSB 209

**Lord’s Prayer** *Pater Noster* LSB 209

**Words of Our Lord** *Verba Domini* LSB 209

**Pax Domini** *Peace of the Lord* LSB 209

**Agnus Dei** *Lamb of God* LSB 210

**Distribution Hymns** LSB 689, 635, 640, 691, 620

Nunc Dimittis	LSB 211
Post-Communion Collect	LSB 212
Benedicamus and Benediction	LSB 212
Closing Hymn	<i>If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee</i> LSB 750
✠ <i>Soli Deo Gloria</i> ✠	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Thursday	7/31/25	6:30 p.m.	26
Sunday	8/3/25	9:00 a.m.	140

**WE PRAY** for Mary Ankerberg, Lisa Breu (daughter of Mike and Nancy Wang), Sandy Damms, Tom Domagalski, Daut Gaba, Jerry Garske, Carol Georgson, Elaine Howe, Paul Howe, Candace Kolter, Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Pat Wagner, and Barbara Wieting.

**FLOWERS** are given by Sandy Schopf in memory of her mother, Shirley Nelson and her nephew, Jay Cech.

**BULLETINS** are given by Mark and Connie Gerloff in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary.

**THANK YOU** to Pastor Nuckols for preaching today and Pastor Koch for preaching last Thursday.

**PASTOR FENKER INSTALLATION** The installation service will be today, August 10 at 3:00 p.m. in the church. There will be a dinner celebration in the school gym after the service. We hope to see you there to welcome Pastor and his family.

**PAC EXTRAVAGANZA** This event, which takes the place of school home visits, has 2 dates to choose from, Thursday, August 14 (3:30-6:00 p.m.) and Monday, August 18 (9:00-11:30 a.m.). Parents and students are welcome to attend the date of their choice to meet with their teacher, bring in school supplies, and organize their desks. Booths will be set up in the gym where parents or students can sign required school forms, volunteer to be a Room parent or assist with parties, get involved with Trojan Athletic Club, get involved with PAC, sign up for Chess Club, Commit to the Yearbook Club, get free basic vision screening (students), receive assistance navigating Sycamore, meet Pastor Fenker, and get more information about our church and childcare. Root beer floats will be served at the Thursday Extravaganza and donuts will be on hand at the Monday session.

**PART-TIME ART TEACHER NEEDED** Our Father's is seeking a person to teach Art classes for Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, one and a half days per week. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Principal Cahill at 210-473-7109. If your desire is to teach more than one and a half days per week, please also inquire.

**SERVICE SCHEDULE** The Sunday Divine Service is now 9:00 a.m. The Thursday 6:30 p.m. Divine Service will continue. Sunday Adult Bible Class will move to 10:30 a.m. and will be in the **school**. There is no Sunday School during the summer, but will resume after Labor Day.

**THANK YOU** so much for your kindness to all who helped us pack up our trailer and for your prayers for our safe move to Texas. We also want to thank everyone for all the gifts bestowed on our family. We truly appreciate it! Pastor Christiansen, Bethany, Silas, Lydia, Hezekiah, Phoebe and Anastasia

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!** A big thank you to everyone that helped with Pastor Fenker's move from Kansas. First off, thanks to Phil Wingfield who orchestrated the entire move. The first load of Two Men and a Truck (Phil Wingfield and Mike Lagerman) and this past week the final load of Two Men and a Truck (Phil Wingfield and Dave Burgess) made the move very smooth. I also want to thank Ken Letto for providing his 12 ft. long trailer which made the move from the gym on Saturday flawless. Thank you to LeAnn Lagerman and Linda Hojnacki for providing lunches. What a great bunch of people we had. So again thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! Dave Felber

**PART-TIME JOB OPENING** Church Secretary needed at Grace Lutheran Church in Racine to perform clerical tasks, prepare the weekly worship service bulletins, announcements and insert, maintain congregation data base. Hours available up to 16 hours per week. Please attach a cover letter and resume if interested to Steven Vargas, Email- ([sleger1@wi.rr.com](mailto:sleger1@wi.rr.com)) and phone 262-902-4177.

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY** If you are a member of Our Father’s in good standing and are studying at a college or university for full-time church work, you may apply for funds from the Our Father’s Scholarship Fund. All applications are due **August 15. You need to apply for these funds every school year that you are requesting funds.** Applications can be obtained from the church office or from Linda Hojnacki directly. Applications need to be given to Linda Hojnacki or put in her church mailbox with the appropriate paperwork requested. Any questions, please feel free to contact Linda at (414) 427-5949 or talk to her directly.

<u>THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE</u>			
Sunday	8/10	<b>DIVINE SERVICE</b> No Adult Bible Class Pastor Fenker Installation Installation Celebration	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>   3:00 p.m. after service
Wednesday	8/13	No Morning Bible Study	
Thursday	8/14	PAC Extravaganza <b>DIVINE SERVICE</b>	3:00-6:00 p.m. <b>6:30 p.m.</b>
Sunday	8/17	<b>DIVINE SERVICE</b> Adult Bible Class	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> 10:30 a.m.

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER  
FOR THE WEEK OF  
THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

*“Recognize Them By Their Fruits”*  
August 10 through August 16, 2025

*Last week we heard about the Tree of Life in the Garden. This week we hear that bad trees produce bad fruit. A bad tree is not simply a bad person, but anyone who teaches or preaches someone other than Jesus Christ. Fruit always comes from faith. Our sinful flesh produces the works of unrighteousness because it clings to the teaching that we should all be gods. This is one fruit of unbelief, but there is also the subtle idea that our outward works without the hearing of God’s Word should be pleasing to God and earn His favor. Jesus calls us to trust in Him as the Tree of Life, remaining in Him by hearing His Word and receiving His Sacraments. True love for neighbor flows forth from love for God. We cannot exist apart from the Tree of the Cross that bore the crucified Lord but has now burst forth with the life of the resurrection. All life comes from that Tree. There our Lord did the will of His Father and now calls us to take up the cross and follow Him. Our lawlessness is to be laid to rest as we learn to confess that the Father’s will is to give life through His Son. In this Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to take up this new life of prayer: being reconciled to our fellow Christians, doing charitable deeds and giving offerings to confess faith in the Father, our Creator, as life-giver, fasting to confess that the things of this world do not give life to our bodies, and living a life of prayer that seeks faith through the hearing of God’s Word.*

**INVOCATION:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

**THE CREED**

**VERSE:** <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” **Acts 20:35 (ESV)**

**COLLECT FOR THE WEEK:** Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

**PSALM OF THE WEEK:** 26

**PSALMODY PRAYER:** Lord, I wash my hands in the waters of life that I may stand before Your altar in innocence. Redeem me and be merciful to me. Keep me within Your house through all my days. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	2 Peter 3:14-18
Tuesday	1 John 1:1-2:2
Wednesday	1 John 2:3-17
Thursday	1 John 2:18-27
Friday	1 John 2:28-3:15
Saturday	Luke 16:1-13

**CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: The Apostles’ Creed  
The Second Article: Redemption**

And in Jesus 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.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

**THE BOOK OF CONCORD: The Augsburg Confession (AC XXV-XXVI)  
Article XXV Confession**

<https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/of-confession-xxv/>

**Article XXVI The Distinction of Meats**

<https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/of-the-distinction-of-meats/>

**PRAYER:** Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

Monday	Our Baptism, calling, and daily work
Tuesday	Deliverance from sin and temptation
Wednesday	Marriage, family, and schools
Thursday	The Lord’s Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors
Friday	The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions
Saturday	True repentance and restoration of the withering
Sunday	The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. 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.**

OR

**LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER:** 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.**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** LSB 730 “*What Is the World to Me*” (stanza 4)

4   What is the world to me!  
      My Jesus is my treasure,  
My life, my health, my wealth,  
      My friend, my love, my pleasure,  
My joy, my crown, my all,  
      My bliss eternally.  
Once more, then, I declare:  
      What is the world to me!

LOOKING FORWARD TO  
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

“Faithful in Another’s”  
August 17, 2025

**HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 820, 730, 839, 536, 637, 643, 864

READINGS

2 Samuel 22:26-34  
1 Corinthians 10:6-13  
Luke 16:1-13

This text is the second part of a pair of parables. Its companion is the prodigal son in the verses which precede it. Both of these make reference to the wasting of possessions and the service of only one master. The first is a discussion of all who are made sons of God through Holy Baptism and have received the inheritance of life. The second is a discussion of those in the household who have been made stewards and the proper application of the riches of the forgiveness entrusted to them. In the parable of the unjust steward, a certain rich man is God the Father. He has a steward, that is, a pastor, to whom the gift of forgiveness has been entrusted. The account is connected to the petition of the Lord’s Prayer in Luke 11: *as we forgive all those who are indebted to us*. The steward is to apply the riches of forgiveness as the Father in heaven applies the riches of forgiveness. As the cutting of the earthly debt will produce a greater likelihood of repayment and gain favor for the one to whom the debt is owed, so the application of forgiveness will bear the fruit of forgiveness and love for the Master. If you are faithful with the great gift of forgiveness, surely you should be faithful with the many possessions God bestows upon you. Faith is the complete trust in your Creator who has redeemed you by the blood of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit. Faith serves that Master, and faithfulness with the gift of forgiveness will produce a proper faithfulness in using the created gifts for the good of your neighbor.



## St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

August 15th is when the Church celebrates the day of Mary's Dormition, a Latin title that references the day on which she "fell asleep."



As Lutherans, we might see Marian celebrations through guarded eyes because of the ways in which others have misused the memory of the Mother of God. But let's not let it be so! As our Lutheran Confessions explain, our theology has the most beautiful way of honoring the saints through admiration, thanksgiving, and imitation. Mary, the mother of our Lord, is no exception and is worthy of our honor and respect as God's favored one. Of course, this honor and respect is never over and above the love that we have for our Lord, but here, too, Mary is a beautiful example of forsaking the world for the love of Jesus, the Christ.

After the council, August 15th was recognized as Mary's Dormition (or Assumption, a name reflective of the belief that Mary didn't die but was taken up living into heaven), but this isn't the only feast in the liturgical year that celebrates Mary. The Church has also observed Mary's purification after Jesus' birth in February, the Annunciation nine months before Christmas, the Visitation in July, and the Nativity of Mary in September.

## Our Father's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Childcare

*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

[www.ofls.org](http://www.ofls.org)

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