

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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Website: - ststephenc lc.org or sslcwest.org

September 14, 2025 † Pentecost 14

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 122 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

<https://www.ststephenc lc.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn 908 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

LSB 908

1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants the
△ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the
Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or
tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952

Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responsive Reading

P How beautiful upon the mountains

C Are the feet of him who brings good news,

P Who proclaims peace,

C Who brings glad tidings of good things,

- P** Who proclaims salvation,
C **Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"**
P Your watchmen shall lift up their voices,
C **With their voices they shall sing together;**
P For they shall see eye to eye
C **When the LORD brings back Zion.**
P Break forth into joy, sing together,
C **You waste places of Jerusalem!**
P For the LORD has comforted His people,
C **He has redeemed Jerusalem.**
P The LORD has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations;
C **And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- C** **O most merciful God, I confess to You with a sorrowful heart all my sins. I have sinned against You in what I have thought, said, and done. Have mercy upon me, I pray, and forgive me for Jesus' sake. Send Your Holy Spirit to help me know Your holy will and willingly obey it in the spirit of Christian love and thankfulness. Preserve me in the Christian faith so that I finally enter the eternal life in heaven through our Savior Jesus Christ.**
- P** God our heavenly Father has been merciful to us, for He delivered up Jesus on the cross for our offenses and raised Him again for our justification. Since the Lord gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven to the Christian Church, saying that whoever sins you forgive in His stead they are forgiven, therefore according to Jesus' command, as a called servant of God I forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn 237 st. 1 All Glory be to God on High

TLH 237

♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, the strife at last is ended.
God showeth His good will to men, and peace shall reign on earth again;
Oh, thank Him for His goodness! Amen.

Prayer of the Day

☐ We pray: Dear Lord God, You have revealed in Your Word that You gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers to carry out the Gospel ministry. We thank You for calling pastors to serve us with the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. Enable them to faithfully proclaim and teach Your Word, and work faith and love in our hearts through Your Word so that we accept Your teachings and follow after them in our lives. Continue to keep us in the Christian faith until we are received into heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15 (NKJV)

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." ⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I *am* the God of your father -- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷ And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land

flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " ¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.'

Second Reading

John 16:7-15 (NKJV)

⁷ "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what we believe. W.S. p. 15

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

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 there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Hymn: 681 Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit

LSB 681



1 Send, O Lord, Your Ho - ly Spir - it On Your ser - vant
2 You, O Lord, Your - self have called him For Your pre - cious
3 Help, Lord Je - sus, help him nour - ish All our chil - dren



now, we pray; Let him prove a faith - ful shep - herd
lambs to care; But to pros - per in his call - ing,
with Your Word That in fer - vent love they serve You



That no lamb be led a - stray. Your pure teach - ing to pro -
He the Spir - it's gifts must share. Give him wis - dom from a -
Till in heav'n their song is heard. Bound - less bless - ings, Lord, be -



claim, To ex - tol Your ho - ly name, And to feed Your
bove, Fill his heart with ho - ly love; In his weak - ness,
stow On his faith - ful toil be - low Till by grace to



lambs, dear Sav - ior, Make his aim and sole en - deav - or.
Lord, be near him, In his prayers, Good Shep - herd, hear him.
him be giv - en His re - ward, the crown of heav - en.

Text: Lieder-Perlen, 1905, St. Louis; tr. Frederick W. Herzberger, 1859–1930, alt.

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: 2 Kings 2:9-14

(NKJV)

⁹ And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." ¹⁰ So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. *Nevertheless*, if you see me *when I am* taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." ¹¹ Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw *it*, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. ¹³ He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴ Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where *is* the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

Sermon Theme: David, like Elisha, ask for a Double Portion of Elijah's Spirit.

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*
(† *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* †)

Prayers of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

**☒ 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.**

Hymn 682 God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons *LBS 682*



1 God of the proph - ets, bless the proph - ets' sons;
2 A - noint them proph - ets, men who are in - tent
3 A - noint them priests, strong in - ter - ces - sors they,
4 A - noint them kings, yes, king - ly kings, O Lord.
5 Make them a - pos - tles, her - alds of Your cross;



E - li - jah's man - tle o'er E - li - sha cast.
To be Your wit - ness - es in word and deed,
For par - don and for love and hope and peace,
A - noint them with the Spir - it of Your Son.
Forth let them go to tell the world of grace.



Each age its sol - emn task may claim but once;
Their hearts a - flame, their lips made el - o - quent,
That, through their plead - ing, guilt - y sin - ners may
Theirs not a jew - eled crown, a blood - stained sword;
In - spired by You, may they count all but loss



Make each one no - bler, strong - er than the last.
Their eyes a - wake to ev - 'ry hu - man need.
Find Je - sus' mer - cy and from sin re - lease.
Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a king - dom won.
And stand at last with joy be - fore Your face.

Text: Denis Wortman, 1835–1922, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Installation of Pastor David Ude

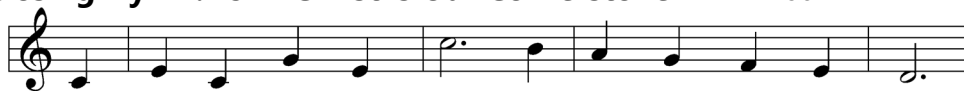
Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C ♪ Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn: 912 Christ is Our Cornerstone

WS 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **10:00 a.m. Installation Worship Service**

9/14/25 **11:00 a.m. Luncheon**

Next Sunday:

9/21/25 **10:00 a.m. Memorial Service in memory of Tari Bliss**

11:00 a.m. Luncheon

9/28/25 **9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Church Council meeting has been rescheduled to this date.

Thank You We thank Professor John Ude for delivering the sermon today. Professor Ude serves as one of the instructors at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI. He is also the father of Pastor David Ude.

Installation We are thankful to the Lord for blessing our congregation with a new resident pastor, Pastor David Ude. We welcome him and his family (Rachel, wife; Anastasia, Samara, and Simon, Ude children; and Michelle Radtke, sister of Rachel) to our church family. May the Lord bless His ministry among us.

Luncheon Following the service today, the ladies of the congregation will serve a lunch in the fellowship hall. All are invited to share this meal with us.

A Memorial Service in memory of Tari Bliss will be conducted next Sunday, during the 10 a.m. worship service. There will be a luncheon served by the ladies after the service.

Adult Bible Class will start up on Sunday, September 28th at 9:00 a.m. with Pastor Ude leading the study.

Midwest Women's Retreat Immanuel Mankato invites women of area congregations to a one day retreat on Saturday, October 25th from 9am-4pm. The theme for the retreat is "Finding our True Identity as a Reflection of Christ's Image." Presentations will include our Identity in Christ, our Identity Reflected to the world, and Confidence in our Identity. Childcare will be available. To register go to <https://tinyurl.com/3jp5ax8y>. The cost is \$20 if you register before September 24 and is free for young girls under 19. Contact Jen Theneman (507-340-1640 / jtheneman@live.com) with any questions.

CLC Call News Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA has accepted the call to serve as the second pastor of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI.

CLC Financial Report - August 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2025	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 2 Months	Balance 8/31/2025
General Fund	0	180,135	202,511	210,850	(22,376)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	361,663	248,439	295,840	113,224
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	99,143	6,126	30,499		74,770
ILC Building Projects	2,066,713	100,154	340		2,166,527
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	148,402	27,785	41,174		135,013
Kinship	169,472	29,300	25,073		173,699
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,503,796	104,315	79,181		2,528,930
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	101,689	50,592	50,212		102,069
EduK8 Fund	70,311	20,689	10,000		81,000
Reserve Fund	103,629	671	0		104,300
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$5,263,155	\$339,632	\$236,479		\$5,366,308

General Fund – Both the year-to-date revenue and disbursements are about the same as they were at this time last year, resulting in a deficit of just over \$22,000.

ILC Operations – The same is true here. Revenues and disbursements are very similar to last year, resulting in a current balance of about \$113,000.

ILC Improvement Fund – Most of the disbursements from this fund were for maintenance work on the geothermal system in the Academic Center and kitchen remodeling on one of the professorages.

ILC Building Projects – The revenue consists of about \$55,000 in contributions and \$45,000 from increases in the market value of the investments in this fund.

Mission Development Fund – The bulk of these disbursements went to our sister synod in Bangladesh for assistance with the costs of construction of a multi-purpose building.

Church Extension Fund – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of about \$45,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, and almost \$60,000 from increases in the market value of the investments. Disbursements included an initial \$60,000 loaned to a congregation for some remodeling/asbestos work, with more coming in the next few months.

Other Auxiliary Funds – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees