

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity
October 26, 2025



Opening Prayer

616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

Invocation

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly**

deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 78:1-3, 4b

Gloria Patri



C Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



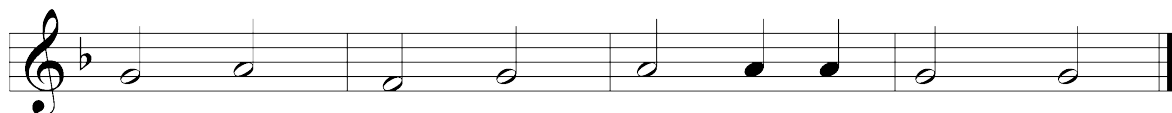
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



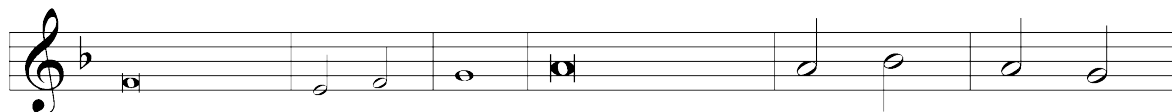
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

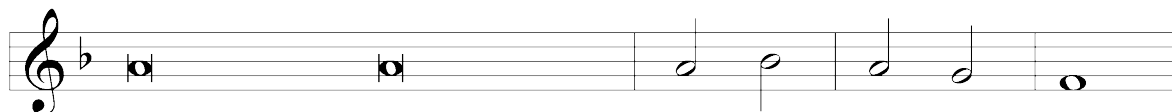
LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



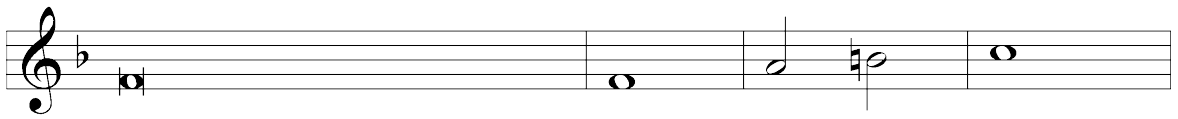
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



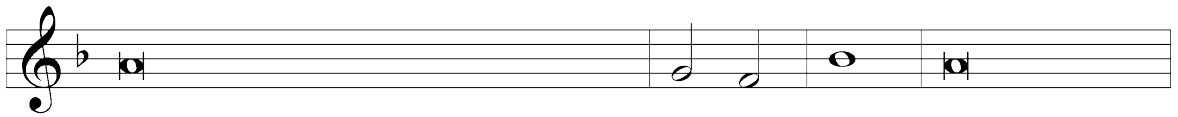
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



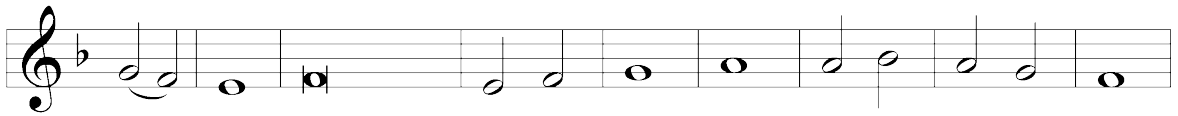
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



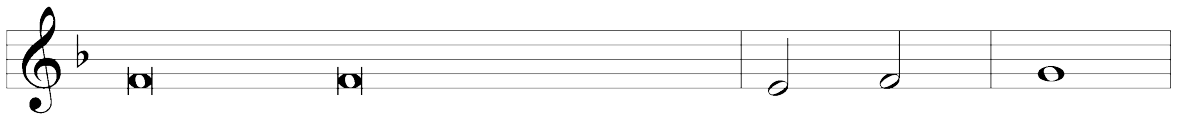
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



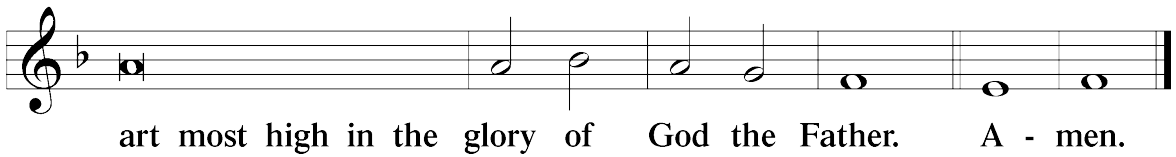
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

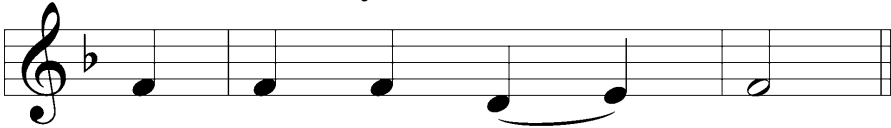


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 28:10–17

¹⁰Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

¹³And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” ¹⁶Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 84; antiphon: v. 8

¹How lovely is your | dwelling place,*

O | LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the LORD;*

my heart and flesh sing for joy to the | living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may | lay her young,*

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

⁴Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!

⁵Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

⁶As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a | place of springs;*
the early rain also covers | it with pools.

⁷They go from | strength to strength;*
each one appears before God in | Zion.

⁸O LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;*
give ear, O God of | Jacob!

⁹Behold our shield, | O God;*
look on the face of your a- | nointed!

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand | elsewhere.*
**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.**

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk up- |

rightly.

¹²O | LORD of hosts,*

blessèd is the one who | trusts in you!

Epistle

Ephesians 4:22–28

²²Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse of the Day

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit

that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,

**begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

sts. 1-4

Sermon - Jesus Gives Handicap Access to God

Sermon Notes/Review Questions

1. How is the altar area of the church meant to convey that you are spiritually handicapped?
2. What was the meaning of the stairway in Jacob's vision?
3. What did Jesus say the stairway was?

4. What two kinds of “stairways” are in the gospel text?
5. Why was “Your sins are forgiven” the first thing Jesus said to this man?
6. What are some ways the text emphasizes Jesus sees our hearts?
7. Why does Jesus ask “which is easier” and what does he mean?
8. How is there a stairway to heaven in church too?
9. What is the only way to come to God?
10. How does the text show what a good work is?
11. Since Jesus ties the physical healing together with the forgiveness as a result of it, what does this promise all those whose sins are forgiven?

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

■ 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.

Sit

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

sts. 5-7

Offering (Collected By the Door)

Prayer of the Church

Stand

C 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. *LSB 197*

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benediction

LSB 202

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



729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus (Children's Hymn)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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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.



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

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week **9:00 a.m. Bible Study and Sunday School**
10/26/25 10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Choir
6:30 p.m. Service in LA

Tuesday 1:30 p.m. service in Stockton
5:15 p.m. service in Sacramento

Thursday 4:00 p.m. Catechism class.

Coming Up

11/2/25 Reformation Service and Celebration With Meal
11/9/25 11:15 am Council Meeting - no choir
11/16/25 11:15 am Voters Meeting - no choir
11/27/25 10:00 am Thanksgiving Service
12/3/25 6:00 pm Midweek Advent Service

Thank You to Barb Gullerud for playing organ for the service, and to Barb and Rachel Ude for helping teach Sunday School.

CLC CALL NEWS Pastor Emeritus Paul Tiefel, Jr. has received the vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has returned the call to Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI. <> Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has received the call to Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI. <> Professor Mark Weis has returned the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Matthew Ude of Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, WI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has received the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA.

Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors' Day is coming up on Friday, November 14th on the ILC campus in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Activities will begin with chapel at 10:05 A.M. in the Field House, followed by presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college, and consider continuing your education in a solidly Christian setting! Visitors will be our guests for lunch and supper in the cafeteria, and in the evening are invited to join us for ILC's fall theatrical production, *Enchanted Sleeping Beauty*. Speak with your pastor if you're interested in attending. For questions, contact Academic Dean Paul Naumann. Office: 715-836-6636, cell: 253-228-8736, e-mail: paul.naumann@ilc.edu

2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip: The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org.



Coordinating Council – September 24, 2025

*This brief summary of the CLC board reports is taken from the full Coordinating Council report which is **available from your pastor** and online at www.clclutheran.net.*

Board of Doctrine (Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck, chair)

We gratefully **acknowledge the faithful service of Pastor Mark Tiefel**, who has resigned from the Board of Doctrine. We **welcome newly-appointed Pastor Emeritus James Albrecht** and pray for the Spirit's blessing on his labors. / The Board of Doctrine is called **“to assist in the formulation of doctrinal statements.”** The Board of Doctrine is not involved in matters until the CLC Convention or CLC President requests it. / The board has begun **a review and update of the 1980's document, *Test the Spirits***, a summary of the doctrinal differences between churches.

Board of Education and Publications (Pastor David Naumann, chair)

EduK8 Fund balance is \$81,000. Two congregations have received assistance from the EduK8 Fund: 1) Grace, Valentine, NE \$10,000 to maintain current staffing levels, and 2) Peace Thru Christ, Middleton, WI, \$3,500 for curriculum materials, shelving, instructional assistance. / **An Errata for the 2006 Sydow Catechism** was sent to pastors. A one-page insert for the front cover of existing Catechisms as well as a more detailed explanation of the edits in booklet form are available at the Book House. / **Ministry by Mail** sermons will now be sent out a week in advance to aid laymen who are conducting services in a vacancy. / Due to a **server migration issue**, all online courses used to help individuals achieve CLC Certification were lost. The courses are being rebuilt.

Board of Regents (Pastor John Hein, chair)

Professor David Schaller resigned his call in August 2025. The Board of Regents has begun the call process. There is an implemented plan for covering the remainder of the 2025-26 school year. / **Mrs. Lydia Buck** was hired as our Administrative Assistant in June 2025. / **Miss Erin Franson** received and accepted the call to serve as **part-time female mentor**. She will work closely with counselor, Mr. Steve Sydow, to help provide for the well-being of all our students on campus. / The Board of Regents **directed the faculty to reduce the overall number of credits** in the BS Education (BSE) program and the BA in Pre-Theological Studies (BAPS) program. The faculty recommended making Computer Science 101 an elective and removing Music 102 from both programs. For the BAPS program, they also recommended removing Biology 101, the math requirement, and the four elective credits, while adding Religion 407 and 408 and four 1-credit Introduction to Ministry courses as requirements. The Regents adopted these recommendations. / The **four one-credit “Introduction to Ministry”** courses are: Introduction to Soul Care, Preaching, Teaching, Counseling. / **ILHS's new cell phone policy** means that students may not possess, access, or use cell phones or personal

electronic devices at ILHS during the school day. / The **Academic Center geothermal flush and refill** was completed. An inline filter was installed as a preventative measure as well. Once a new heat pump and computer motherboard are installed, the project will reach completion. / **Tuition, Room & Board, and fees** remain unchanged for the 2026-2027 school year. / The Regents and the General Business Office Manager follow a defined process to address **delinquent Student Aid Fund loans** (more information is in the full report).

ENROLLMENT

144 (139 full-time, 2 part-time; 3 online; 2 non-members)

82 residents in the dormitories (78 billed for room and board)

North Hall (Boys' Dorm) has 31 (29 + 2 RAs)

South Hall (Girls' Dorm) has 40 (38 + 2 RAs)

West Hall has 11 (college/seminary males)

High School			College									Seminary		
Class	2024-25	2025-26	Class	2024-25	2025-26	AA 2024-25	AA 2025-26	BS 2024-25	BS 2025-26	BA 2024-25	BA 2025-26	Class	2024-25	2025-26
Fresh.	25	29	Fresh.	8	8	3	0	1	5	4	3			
Soph.	28	24	Soph.	6	6	2	3	2	1	2	2	Junior	1	0
Junior	29	27	Junior	6	7			2	2	4	5	Middle r	0	1
Senior	20	31	Senior	2	6			2	2	0	4	Senior	0	0
Part-Time			Special	4	2									
			Online	2	3									
TOTAL	102	111		28	32	5	3	7	10	10	14		1	1
TOTAL FULL-TIME	102	111		22	27	5	3	7	10	10	14		1	1

AA – Associate of Arts / BS – Bachelor of Science in Education / BA – Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Theology

Board of Missions (Mr. Joel Krafft, chair)

Living Hope (Appleton, WI) is currently calling for a new resident pastor. / A video synopsis of the board's proposal for a renewed perspective and direction in the domestic mission field has been

made available to the pastors. / **Traveling VBS teams** helped support programs in Mapleton, ND, Morris, MN, Cheyenne, WY, Marquette, MI, Mountain View, CA, and Valentine, NE. / **Missionaries Peter Evensen, Todd Ohlmann, Bruce Naumann and Paul Nolting** continue in their respective fields. / **Ted Quade** has agreed to step back from his role as Christian School Instructor Supervisor. Missionary Naumann is in the region and will oversee the Kenya schools. Mr. Quade remains the Kinship Committee chairman. / **Liberian Church of the Lutheran Confession (LCLC)**: Missionary Ohlmann plans to visit in November 2025. / **Nigerian Church of the Lutheran Confession (NCLC)**: A nearly-completed seminary building will be dedicated during a November visit. / **Église Évangélique Luthérienne de Confession du Togo (EELC)** prepares to graduate three seminary students in November. A national pastoral conference is planned for January. / **Congrégation Confessionnelle Luthérienne du Congo (CCLC)** has added four new congregations and pastors. Security has improved, allowing for a planned visit in 2026. / **Eglise Confessionnelle Lutherienne Sainte Faille au Congo (ECLSAFACO)** has received a \$1,000 MDF grant to complete legal incorporation. / **The Church of the Lutheran Confession in Zambia (CLCZ)** continues to work toward official registration in Zambia. Missionary Ohlmann is planning a visit in April 2026. Approved MDF grants will provide for church construction and preschool assistance for the Kalulushi congregation. / **Kenyan Church of the Lutheran Confession (KCLC)** There is an encouraging zeal for outreach from pastors in Kitale and Moi's Bridge. This has resulted in several new start-up congregations. / **Berea Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (BELC)**: Missionary Ohlmann and Chairman Krafft are planning a ten-day trip in October. This will be the first test of Missionary Ohlmann's newly acquired five-year visa. / **Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM)**: A new multipurpose building is near completion which will support seminary instruction. A Mission Helper Trip focused on child evangelism is planned for 2026. / **Lutheran Autonomous Mission of the Philippines (LAMP)**: A new worship and classroom space is being prepared in a donated facility with plans to launch a Bible Institute to train future church leaders. / **Iglesia Luterana Confesional Mexico (ILC)**: Missionary Ohlmann plans a visit planned for some time in 2026. / **Kinship** sponsorships are fulfilled. Ongoing aid to areas like Myanmar and Nepal has been possible as the Lord blesses the general fund to meet rising needs through careful stewardship. / The **Mission Helper Program** next major trip is planned for East Africa in 2026, with separate teams being led to Kenya, Zambia, and Tanzania.

Board of Trustees (Mr. Tom Lentz, chair)

Year-to-Date general fund balance is negative / **The Reserve Fund** was used to cover the FY25 deficit. The reserve balance is \$104,300. / The **General Fund Endowment** has a balance of \$243,095 / The **Church Extension Fund (CEF)** has a net fund balance of **\$6,364,616**. New CEF mortgages have been approved for Mt. Zion, Detroit, MI; Zion, Ipswich/Aberdeen, SD; and Holy Trinity, West Columbia, SC. / **Offerings to the Building Fund** in two months of FY26 totaled \$54,843. Current Building Fund balance is \$2,166,527 / **FY27 Trustee Budget Proposal** includes a \$20/month increase for the remaining participants in the Old Retirement Plan, and travel expenses have been

increased to reflect inflation and the work of the Recruitment Committee. / The **FY27 CBP Budget Proposal** includes only a COLA compensation increase (2.8%). This would result in a proposed Tier 1 base salary of \$3,455 (\$4,455 Tier 2). The Board of Missions budget includes the full funding of the 3rd Foreign Missionary, even though another small portion could have been delayed until FY28.

General Fund Budget			
Fiscal Year	FY25	FY26	FY27
Operations Receipts	Actual	Current	Proposed
CBP Estimates	1,005,000	1,043,353	<i>Pending</i>
CBP Offerings Received	1,057,086	1,265,097	1,302,697
Special Offerings & Receipts	76,560	0	0
Reserves Used / (Surplus)	57,835	0	0
ILC Revenue / Budget	990,519	1,065,050	1,093,150
Total	2,182,000	2,330,147	2,395,847
Operations Spending			
Extra Budgetary	0	0	0
Education - Total	11,704	25,000	22,000
Trustees - Total	60,521	68,575	69,120
Missions - Total	420,939	461,522	486,577
Regents - Gen Fund Subsidy	698,317	710,000	725,000
Regents - Student Revenue	990,519	1,065,050	1,093,150
Total	2,182,000	2,330,147	2,395,847
Year End Reserves	103,629		

Next Coordinating Council Meeting: April 15, 2026 / Boards meet April 13-14

Catechism Memory Work
The Fifth Commandment
You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Bible Stories To Read (Or listen to) At Home:

1. Genesis 39 — The Story Bible Pages 85-86
2. Genesis 40-41 — The Story Bible 89-90
3. Genesis 42-45 — The Story Bible Pages 91-92
4. Genesis 48-49 - The Story Bible Pages 95-96
5. Exodus 1-2 — The Story Bible Pages 96-100

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

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Barb Gullerud: Organist

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Michael Slattengren