

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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August 31, 2025 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost



Lutheran Church of the Cross

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to Church of the Cross.
We pray our worship today blesses your life.

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

Douglas Whiteaker

GATHERING HYMN

“Morning Has Broken”

ELW #556

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Merciful God,

C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

L We belong to Christ Jesus, and we are God’s children through faith. In the cross of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, we are a new creation.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray...

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Kevin Brown

First Reading ... Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Psalm 112

(read responsively)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!
² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast
forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth
and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading ... Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading ... Luke 14:1, 7-14

(Please rise for the Gospel)

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Douglas Whiteaker

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW #733

APOSTLES’ CREED

(stand)

C 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 into hell. 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 INTERCESSION

L Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

After each petition the Leader will say: Hear us, O God.

*Response: **Your mercy is great.***

L For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

L For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

L For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. Help them see that all people want fair wages for their work. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

L For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence, especially those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Bless those on our prayer list and those who are close to our hearts that we name before you now aloud or silently... Hear us, O God.

L For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give us all a spirit of welcome for visitors and encourage the work of those who feed and nourish those less fortunate. Bring us fresh ideas and strengthen us to do the work that you would have us do. Hear us, O God.

L For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

L Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C Amen.

L Let us pray together the prayer our Lord has taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING *You may place your Offering and your Prayer Requests in the Basket at the table in the back of the Sanctuary. At that time, you may also light a candle at the table of votives in honor or memory of someone, or for any need.*

OFFERING PRAYER

L Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CLOSING READING **Psalm 81:1, 10-16** (Read Responsively)

¹ Sing with joy to God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ **“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

¹¹ Yet my people did not hear my voice,
and Israel would not obey me.

¹² **So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts,
to follow their own devices.**

¹³ Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!

¹⁴ **I would quickly subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.**

¹⁵ Those who hate the Lord would cringe in fear,
and their punishment would last forever.

¹⁶ **But I would feed you with the finest wheat
and satisfy you with honey from the rock.”**

BLESSING

L The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “This Little Light of Mine” ELW #677

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

L May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

L Let us share the peace of the Lord with each other as we leave today.

+++++

WE LEAVE TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Douglas Whiteaker, Council President 916-606-8976

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Jacquie Haney, Facilities Manager 916-456-8880

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NOTES & EVENTS

Sunday, September 7, Janey Ranlett will lead the Service.

“God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday – a Day of Service. See the sign up sheet to bring items for “Giveaway Bags” and to donate to Blue Star Moms.

The Queen's High Tea will be on Sept 20 from 11-2:00ish. It will take place at Julie Andrews' abode and all are welcome. See Laura Christensen for details and to reserve your spot. Fundraiser for Cross from the last Silent Action.

Sunday, Sept. 28 - Quarterly Congregational Meeting during Fellowship Hour after Service.

The Houseboat Progressive Party will be after Church on Sunday, October 12. This fun time will be In Walnut Grove @ Dagmar's Landing. Co-hosts The Christensens & The Fossums – see them for details and get onboard! Fundraiser from the last Silent Auction.

October 17-19 SPS WELCA Convention at Christ the King Passionist Center, Citrus Heights. Registration now open, see Kevin Brown for details.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND ANSWERED PRAYERS

Prayers of healing for Mark and Patricia who were in an auto accident last Sunday. Patricia sustained a fractured sternum and a fractured right ankle. Mark has contusion on the left knee, a cut on his head and an air-bag-caused abrasion on his arm. Both are recovering and are on walkers. It certainly could have been worse, thank the Lord it wasn't. The car, however, won't survive.

Sonya, Tami Stoddard's sister, who has a very aggressive breast cancer and will be having surgery and chemo.

Lisa Mulz, whose dog Petra has inoperable cancer. And for Lisa's mom who went on hospice.

Deanna Ransom who has vertigo and has had issues with her gall bladder.

Lucas O'Connor, 16-year-old grandson of Joann Ryan, who fell while hiking. He is home now, and using a walker.

Prayers for the family and friends of Nancy Dugan who passed away. Also, for her husband, Jim, who has dementia.

Greg deMartine, Kevin's brother-in-law who is recovering from bladder cancer.

Blair Bagley, Julie Andrews' friend who is recovering from Chiari 1 Malformation brain surgery.

Chuck Hines, for successful chemo for lung cancer and for continued healing of the wounds on his foot.

For Chuck's friend, Ken, who had a fall and is resistant to help at his assisted living home.

Elaine Hussey, friend of Chuck's who is recovering from a leg wound.

May Drobny, who fractured her hip but is recovering at home.

Donya Wiken, who is homebound.

Julie Nemes, in the loss of her dog, Lexy. And for healing of her broken tooth, which will need replacement.

Julie Nemes' friend Bobbie Henley who is undergoing radiation for metastatic breast cancer. And for friend Danica's husband, Abraham, who is struggling with Parkinson's.

Judy Kaylor, who is in hospice care and for her daughter, Tina Anger, who is in a care facility.

Sue Fossum's sister-in-law, Nancy, who is in hospice. And for Mark, Sue's brother.

Jackie Walters who is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. Also, Hans, Jackie's husband who has Parkinson's.

Julie Andrews' sister-in-law, Marilyn, who is in a care facility. Also, her sister-in-law, Pat.

Joseph Brito, for healing after brain surgery.

Paul Santos, Jacquie Haney's brother-in-law hoping to receive a kidney transplant.

Erin Sullivan, Jacquie's friend, prayers for continued healing after beating breast cancer.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
PARTICIPATING & PARTNERING IN OUTREACH

Here is a sampling:

- 1) St. John's Program for Real Change – Feeding dinners at Women's & Children's Shelter
- 2) Fortunate Feast – Christmas Event for Families in need
- 3) LSS of Northern California's Program helping transitioning Youth who have aged out of the Foster Care system
- 4) River City Community Services – Food Closet
- 5) Habitat for Humanity
- 6) Rock Point Navajo Reservation - Providing school children w/clothing/toys at Christmas; providing school supplies, more
- 7) "Run to Feed the Hungry" Care Station – supporting Sacramento Food Bank
- 8) Blue Star Moms – Sending "care" packages to our troops

Some projects receive support funding by **Thrivent Financial**
- A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Society that returns funds from financial products purchased by members to fund endeavors in the Community.

Other Groups That Use Our Facility:

- 1) Al-Anon
- 2) Women's AA

**Come Join Us in Our Outreach
to Our Community**

Worship For All Ages - Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pet Friendly – Bring your Dog, Cat, or other Friends
WE ARE AN OPEN and DIVERSE ASSEMBLY
ALL ARE WELCOME !!