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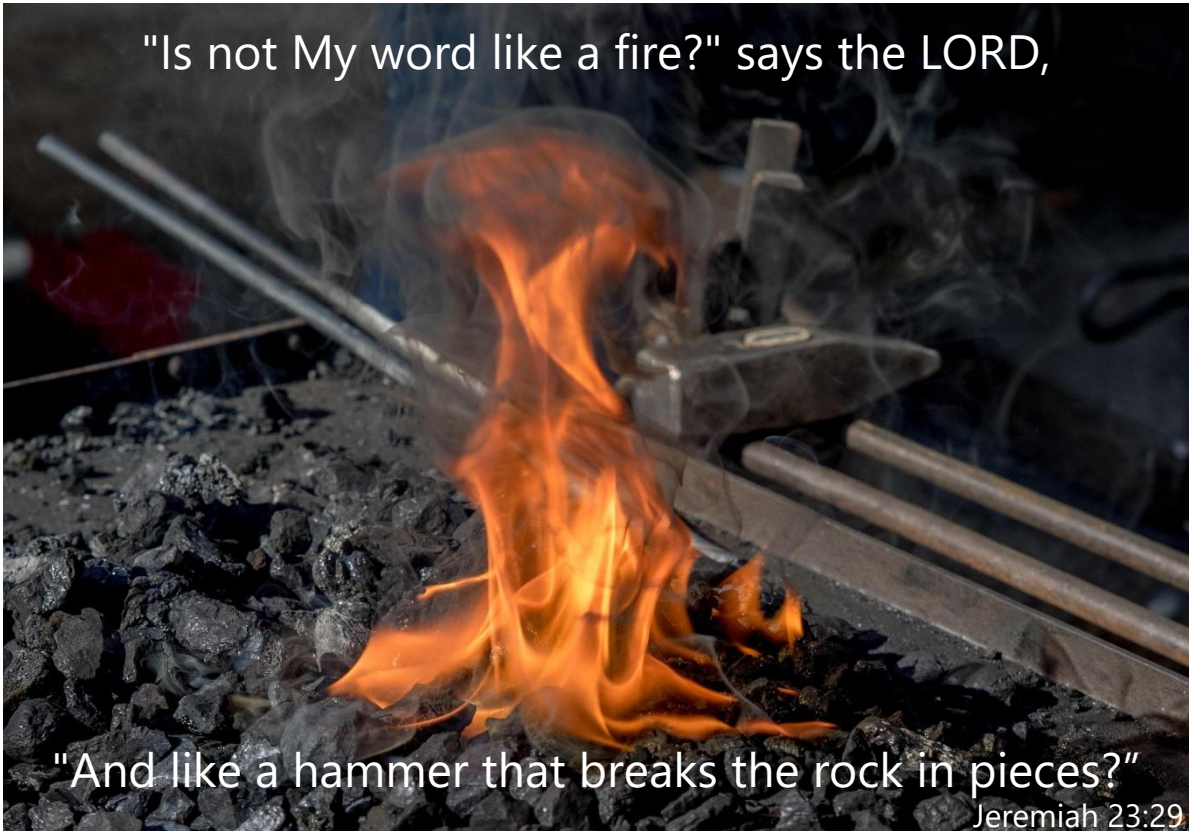
Carrie Reim, Teacher

Phone: 715-529-4030

September 7, 2025

Pentecost 13

"Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD,



"And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Jeremiah 23:29

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 139 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: 578 v. 1-4 Thy Strong Word

LSB 578 v. 1-4

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.

Confession and Absolution

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

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord...

"Thy Strong Word" LSB 578 v. 5

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy
mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the
hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the
light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with
al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) on the eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76 Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Hebrews 12:1-13 (EHV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. ² Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne. ³ Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood in your fight against sin. ⁵ Have you also forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons?

My son, do not regard the Lord's discipline lightly,
and do not become weary of his correction.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves,
and he corrects every son he accepts.

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. Is there a son whose father does not discipline him? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and all of us have received it), then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ In addition, we have earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not submit even more to the Father of the spirits and live? ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while, according to what seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant when it is happening, but painful, yet later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore strengthen your weak hands and feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

Second Reading

Luke 12:49-53 (ESV)

P The second reading is from Luke 12:49-53.

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

"Thy Strong Word" 578 LSB v. 6

△ 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee
laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of
Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.
Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,
glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,
now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the notes.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76 Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Preschool/Kindergarten – Hannah Saunders & Abbie Plockelman

1st & 2nd Grade – Kelsey Rodebaugh & Paula Gurath

3rd – 5th Grade – Jordan & Brittany Albrecht

6th – 8th Grade – Philip Reim

Music – Jessie Nelson

Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 206

**☐ 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.**

Hymn of the Day: 836 O God of Light

LSB 836

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 23:23-29 (NKJV)

²³ "Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD. ²⁵ "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶ "How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ "who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. ²⁸ "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD. ²⁹ "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Sermon Theme: God's Powerful Word

1. It is a Hammer

✝ In what way(s) is God's Word like a "**hammer**"?

2. It is a Fire

✝ In what way(s) is God's Word like a "**fire**"?

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

Sermon Hymn: 589 *Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens*

LSB 589

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

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

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

Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!
C Amen.

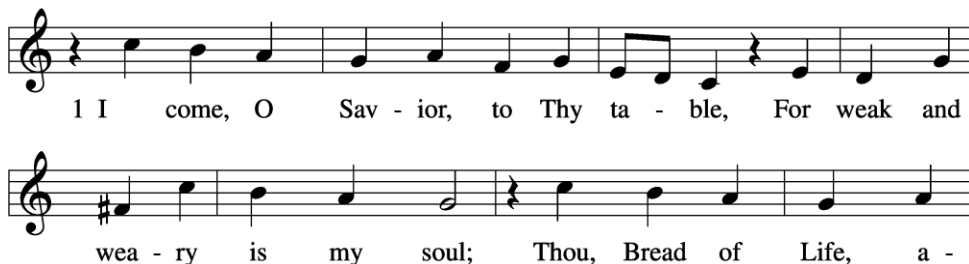
Prayer Before the Lord's Supper

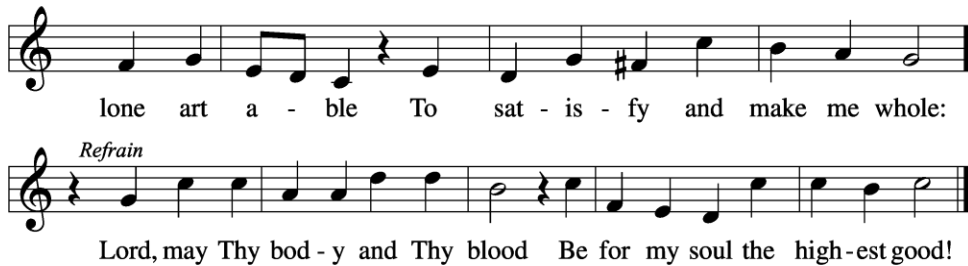
Adapted from The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 4

- C** Dear Savior, upon Your gracious invitation I come to Your altar.
Let me find favor in Your eyes that I may approach Your table in true faith
and receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of my sins and the
strengthening of my faith. Amen

Hymn of Preparation

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" *LSB 618 v. 1*





Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130002401

Tune: Public domain

The Distribution

***Note to our Guests:** We are so glad you are worshiping with us today. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.*

Communion Hymns: 628 LSB; 623 LSB; 636 LSB

Prayer After the Lord's Supper

Adapted from The Lutheran Hymnal, p. 4

☐ O blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Your faith and favor. As You live in me, let me also live in You. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life! Amen.

☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness!

The Thanksgiving

"Thanks to You, O Christ, Victorious" 966 CW21 – Accompaniment for Hymns Vo. 3

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Thanks to You, O Christ, Victorious". It is arranged for voice and piano accompaniment. The score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Thanks to you, O Christ vic - to - rious! Thanks to you, O Lord of life! Death has now no pow - er o'er us, you have con - quered in the strife." The score consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff with treble and bass clefs). The piano accompaniment features a steady harmonic support with some melodic movement in the bass line.

Thanks to you, O Christ vic - to - rious! Thanks to

you, O Lord of life! Death has now no

pow - er o'er us, you have con - quered in the strife.

Thanks be - cause you did a - rise and have o - pened

par - a - dise! None can ful - ly sing the

glo - ry of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Text and music: public domain

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 shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 923 *Almighty Father, Bless the Word* (please stand for last verse)

Announcements



Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this morning.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today:
9/7/25

Choir – 8am
Worship w/ Communion – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

Tuesday – **Worship Service at New Perspective** (Franklin) – **11am**
Board of Education Meeting – 5:30pm
Elders Meeting – 6:30pm

Wednesday – **Worship Service at The Villa** (Greenfield) – **10am**
Wednesday Bible Class – 6:30pm (Zoom & In-Person)

Thursday – **Board of Property – 5:30pm**

Saturday – **Messiah Block Party – 6:30pm**

Church Cleaning: Team #4 (9/6-9/12); Team #5 (9/13-9/19)

Next Sunday:
9/14/25

Choir – 8am
Worship – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

Sunday School & Bible Class Resume TODAY - Sunday (9/7) at 10:15am - A reminder and an invitation to join us as Sunday School (Pre-K-8th Grade) and Bible Class (9th grade-Adult) resume for the season TODAY **Sunday, September 7th at 10:15am**. If you've never attended Bible Class before, now is a great time to give it a try! We'll be starting with Lesson 6: "Law and Gospel" from the "Learn From Me" Bible Instruction Course. Consider investing an extra 45minutes of your Sunday digging deeper into God's Word and sharing in fellowship with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. It will certainly be worth your time! If you have any questions or if you want more information, please speak with Pastor Luke.



Messiah Block Party – Saturday (9/13) from 6:30pm-8:30pm –

Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship at our annual Block Party on the front lawn of our church. Please bring a lawn chair and invite your friends and neighbors to join us! Hope to see you there!

Mission Festival – Sunday, September 21st – Fellowship Meal Sign-Up Sheet –

We will be celebrating our Mission Festival on **Sunday, Sept. 21st** with a Mission Presentation, Worship Service, and Fellowship Meal. CLC President, Pastor Michael Wilke, will be our guest Mission Festival preacher and presenter. Please make plans to join us. If you'd like to bring a dish to pass please sign the sheet on the cupboard doors in the church hallway. The schedule for our Mission Festival will be as follows:

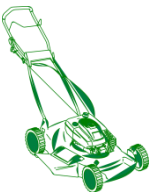


✠ **9am – Mission Presentation** ✠ **10:15am – Worship Service** ✠ **11:15am – Fellowship Meal**

Note: There will be no Sunday School that day. All are invited to attend the Mission presentation at 9am.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:30pm – Please make plans to join us either in-person or online via Zoom for our Wednesday Evening Bible Class. We are studying selected Psalms.

To join online please click on Pastor Luke's Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>



Lawn Mowing Sign-Up Sheet – We are in need of volunteers each week to help with the lawn mowing on the church property. Please sign the sheet on the cupboard in the church hallway. If you'd like more information please speak with Fred Goodrie, Board of Property Chairman. Please join us in helping keep our property beautiful this summer, to the glory of the Lord!

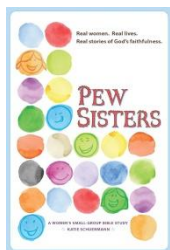
Used smartphones for Africa - Missionary Bruce Naumann is requesting donations of a certain kind of Android smartphone, for use by pastors and pastoral students in East Africa. If you have a used phone that was once on a **Verizon plan** and would like to donate it, please bring it to the church office. Verizon is preferred because it will work with African cell carriers, but most others will not (phones not on the Verizon network are not needed, since they would likely not work).

- The phones don't need a Sim card, since the user has to purchase one here regardless.
- Also, it's best if the phone is factory-reset (wiped of user information), but Pastor Naumann will do that himself, if needed.
- Please DO NOT purchase a new phone to donate. This will reduce the temptation to re-sell the phones.

These phones are much appreciated by students and pastors in our sister African churches - thank you!

CLC Call News - Pastor Andrew Schaller of Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac, WI, has **received and accepted** the vacancy call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI.

- † **RETIREMENT** Pastor Paul Tiefel, Jr of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has announced his **retirement** as of September 6-7, 2025.
- † **DEDICATION** Mt. Zion Lutheran Church will dedicate their new church property (510 W. Girard Ave., Madison Heights, MI, 48071) on Sunday, September 14, at 4:00pm. <> Zion Lutheran Church (formerly of Ipswich, SD) will dedicate their new church building (1223 4th Ave SW, Aberdeen, SD) on Sunday, October 26, at 5:00pm.
- † **INSTALLATION** On Sunday, September 14, 2025, Pastor David Ude will be installed at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA.



Ladies' Group Resumes on Tues., Sept. 16th @ 6:30pm – Make plans to join us as we resume our Ladies Group on **Tues. Sept. 16th at 6:30pm**. We will continue our study of the book *Pew Sisters* (available on Amazon) and will be picking up with Session 6 on p. 73. Contact Lisa Lisak with questions or see the flyer on the bulletin board.

No Ushering Out at the End of Worship Services (August – October) –

From the Voters' Meeting minutes: "A recommendation was made by the Board of Elders to suspend ushering after services until the next quarterly meeting, as suggested by several members during annual visits. A motion was called, seconded, and carried to approve the recommendation to suspend post-service ushering for three months." The voters will revisit this and vote on it at our October meeting (10/19). We welcome you to share your feedback with our Elders and/or Pastor Luke over the next few months.

Pastoral "Get to Know Each Other" Visits / Pastor Luke's Contact Info – I hope to finish up my "face to face" visits with each of our members soon. These include a short devotion and some time to get to know each other. Pastor's Contact Info:

Email: LBernthal@messiahhc.org † Cell: **402-389-2147** † Church Office: **414-427-9337**

Fall Men's and Women's Retreats

"ManUp" Men's Retreat – Sept. 25th-28th – ManUp allows the opportunity to strengthen and encourage men 18 and older in their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend includes Bible Study, Fellowship, Leadership Training, Team and Relationship Building and Worship, as well as many awesome outdoor activities. This years Team Building activity will be epic! The retreat will be held **September 25 - 28, 2025** at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI about an hour south of La Crosse. You can also find out more information, see pictures of the park, and register for ManUp online at www.manup.clclutheran.org. The cost is now \$150 for the weekend and includes lodging, meals, and activities.

Generous CLC donors have offered grants for men 25 and younger to attend for only \$25.

Info/Registration: manup.clclutheran.org

Register by: **September 1, 2025**

\$75 includes bed and all meals

\$150 *after* September 1st



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.

Bible Readings:	
9/7	Deut. 22 Psalm 69 Luke 1:67-80
9/8	Deut. 23 Psalm 70 Luke 2:1-21
9/9	Deut. 24 Psalm 71 Luke 2:22-52
9/10	Deut. 25 Psalm 72 Luke 3:1-14
9/11	Deut. 26 Psalm 73 Luke 3:15-17
9/12	Deut. 27 Psalm 74 Luke 3:18-38
9/13	Deut. 28:1-29 Psalm 75 Luke 4:1-13



SCAN FOR
ONLINE
OFFERING

September Ushers	Cleaning Team 9/13-9/19
Fred Goodrie Jim Lisak Mark Kuehne	<u>Team 5</u> S/E Lisak J/K Rodebaugh J/H Barthels J/S Serba L/J Bernthal
September Slideshow James Schaser	

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings:	\$6,195.00	\$63,609.28
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,642.65	\$77,783.85
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$2,447.65)	(\$14,174.57)
MDF:	\$30.00	\$225.00
ILCSAF:	\$100.00	\$300.00
MBF:	\$100.00	\$360.00
MSAF:	\$25.00	\$200.00
Attendance Last Sun. (8/31): 115		

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