



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

July 5, 2026- 9:30 am

Leader Bulletin

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

God calls us together for worship.

We hear the Good News of God's unconditional love and are welcomed at Christ's table.

God loves and accepts us just as we are and sends us out into the world.

We embrace and nurture every person as a beloved child of God.

Called by God, loved by God, sent by God.

May we be fed, strengthened, and encouraged for our mission together.

Gathering Song

"God Welcomes All"

ACS 978

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

Sing 4x's

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Song

"Behold the Lamb of God"

Behold the Lamb of God, Behold the Lamb of God.

He takes away the sin, the sin of the world.

(Repeat 3x's)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Special Music

"We Are Enough"

Deb Manning

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching (Wendy Brenner)

Zechariah 9:9-12... Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 145:8-14... The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.⁹ The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30... Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:¹⁶ "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He

has a demon';¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Pastor Ronald Youngerman

Hymn of the Day

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

ELW 726

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain—The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

Prayers

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need. We pray especially this day for *Norm Firkins; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz; Emalyn; Madelyn Abbott; Kimberly Sobota; Arthur Oberwetter; Georgia Jennings; Kim Jones; Scott Matheson; Sunrisa Lewis; Nancy Bartell; Michael Schadendorf; Shari Jensen; Ken Gross; Dave Huggins*; for all health care workers who care for them; *and those we name either silently or aloud.*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest, we thank you for the gifts of life together.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

"Give Thanks"

Words of Institution

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks...

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink...

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **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**

Communion

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Communion Song

"Come as You Are"

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

Sending Song

“Joy Comes with the Dawn”

Refrain—Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.

Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. (*Refrain*)

Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song,
and God’s laughter makes us strong. (*Refrain*)

We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. (*Refrain*)

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is Thursday, July 16th from 5 to 7:00pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Every item donated is very much appreciated. This week our specific focus will be mac & cheese and cereal.
- ⇒ **Altar Flowers** are available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ **Save the Date** Sunday, September 20th is our annual Neighborhood Block Party. Many hands make easy work, watch for more details on how to help coming soon!
- ⇒ **Lunch Bunch** will meet on Thursday, July 16th at 11:30 am at Charleston's at 7540 Dodge Street. All are welcome to join us. Please call Linda Kohrs at 402-690-3342 to make a reservation.
- ⇒ **Summer Choir** June through August come sing the 2nd and 4th Sunday's of each month. Come at 9:00 am and sing the same day at the Sunday service!
- ⇒ **Save the Date** August 7 to 9 will be our annual church camping trip at Carol Joy Holling. Watch the bulletin and Narthex for more information later in the summer. Questions now? See Kelley Kennedy.
- ⇒ **Backyard Vibes** Jim and Peg Schneider are hosting music in their backyard again this summer and everybody is invited! Local blues legend **Hector Anchondo** is playing **Sunday evening July 19 @ 6:30pm**. Over the years Hector has won several Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards for Outstanding Blues, Artist of the Year, and Album of the Year, and in 2020 he won the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. The Schneiders live at 9840 Louis Drive - hope to see you there!
- ⇒ **Heartland Pride!** Pride allows our community a chance to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ. Stop by our booth at Youth pride on July 17, 2026, and/or show up to proclaim a message of LOVE with our faith community in the Heartland Pride Parade on July 18, 2026. [Click here](#) to register to march or scan the qr code here!
- ⇒ **2026 High School Summer Trip** Tomorrow, we have 11 high school youth and 2 adults heading to Pittsburgh, PA for the Nebraska Synod Journey. We will spend a week with 137 high school youth and adults from around Nebraska doing service learning work, exploring Pittsburgh, and growing in faith together. Please keep them in your prayers this week as they travel, learn and grow!
- ⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, July 5

9:30 am Worship

Monday, July 6

Sr High Trip Begins

6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting

9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, July 7

7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, July 8

12:30 am Tai Chi Balance Class

Friday, July 10

1:00 pm Knitting in the Nartex

6:45pm AA—Good Orderly Direction

Saturday, July 11

9:30 am Sarah Circle at Holy Cross

Sunday, June 28

9:00 am Summer Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am Worship

3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Meeting

Sr High Trip Ends

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

Member Concerns: Norm Firkins; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz.

Friends and Relatives: Emalyn, granddaughter of Pat Butterfield; Kimberly Sobota, mother of Joel Irvin; Ethen & Gunner Fellers, friends of Emma & Geno Roberts; Madelyn Abbott, daughter of Heather Abbott; Meg Trowbridge, friend of Nicole Szymczak; Bobbi Valandra, sister of Jason Valandra; Arthur Oberwetter, father of Julie Leahy; Georgia Jennings, niece of Walter Roberts; Gordon Blake, father of Alisa Krueger; Paisley & Porter Rodriguez, friends of Eric Gitt; ; Kim Jones, sister-in-law of Trisha Ryan; Jim O'Grady, uncle of Pastor Heather Grell; Scott Matheson, brother in law of Julie Noteman; Joshua Perilo, son of Sharon Perilo; Savannah Barb, cousin of Emma & Geno Roberts; Sonrisa Lewis, friend of the Harvey family; Ken Gross, cousin of Julie Noteman; Josh Moreau, friend of Wendy Brenner's family; Nancy Bartell, sister-in-law of Peg Schneider; Michael Schadendorf, grandfather of Edith and Tanya Valandra; Dave Huggins, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; Mya Calendar, daughter of Trisha Ryan; Opal Calendar, foster granddaughter of Trisha Ryan; Kelsey Schneider, daughter of Jim & Peg Schneider; Theresa Ramelb, friend of Jacque Petersen; Shari Jensen, friend of Ed Krueger; Linda Anderson, Barb Kay's sister; Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers, McDonald's grandson.