



HOLY CROSS

LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

August 23, 2026 - 9:30 am

Leader Bulletin

13th Sunday after Pentecost



GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Block Party

Jo Anderson

Confession and Forgiveness

Call to Worship

Gathering Song

"I Will Call Upon the Lord"

Greeting

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

ELW 167

Prayer of the Day

Special Music

"There is a Longing in Our Hearts"

Summer Choir

WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

Isaiah 51:1-6... Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Psalms 138... I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; ² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. ³ On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul. ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth. ⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. ⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away. ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. ⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:13-20... Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Message Pastor Heather Grell

Hymn of the Day

"Faith of Our Fathers"

ELW 812

Prayers

Sharing God's Peace

MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

Offering

Stewardship Talk

Offertory

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW 465

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Communion Songs

"Lamb of God"
"Goodness of God"

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

Blessing

Sending Song

"Rock of Ages"

Dismissal

Postlude

Announcements

- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is Saturday, September 5th from 8 to 10 am. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Every item donated is very much appreciated. This week our specific focus will be ramen noodles, mac & cheese, pasta, and canned beans.
- ⇒ **Altar Flowers** are available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ **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!
- ⇒ **Bingo Prize Box** We are getting closer to our annual Neighborhood Block Party! And bingo is always a big deal! Please drop bingo prize donations off in the box in the Narthex
- ⇒ **Block Party** Our annual block party will take place on Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Join us on the front lawn for a bounce house, blow up obstacle course, the Sweet-Shop Shuffle, Bingo, DJ Moon, pony rides, face painting, and FREE FOOD! This event is free to the public and all are invited. Watch for more details on ways to volunteer in the coming weeks.
- ⇒ **Bowling at Maplewood Lanes!** Join your church family for an afternoon of bowling fun! After service, today, Sunday, August 23rd at 2:00 pm—\$10 per person including shoes! If you haven't yet signed up, check with Kelley!
- ⇒ **Backyard Vibes** Last chance to catch music in Jim and Peg Schneider's backyard: Local singer-songwriter **Sarah Benck Tardy** will play This evening, **Sunday August 23rd @ 6:30pm** and everybody's invited. The Schneiders live at 9840 Louis Drive. Hope to see you all there!
- ⇒ **Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange** - Saturday, September 12th from 12:00pm-2:00pm we will be hosting a puzzle exchange in the fellowship hall. Bring puzzles you have completed to share with others and take home new puzzles - bring one, take one! Invite your puzzle friends! Contact Kelli Joseph at ksjose123@cox.net with questions.
- ⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

Calendar for Upcoming Week

Sunday, August 23

9:00 am Summer Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am Worship
2:00 pm Bowling at Maplewood Lanes
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 48012 Meeting
6:30 pm Backyard Vibes at Schneider's

Monday, August 24

6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting
9:00 pm CMA Meeting

Tuesday, August 25

Newsletter Articles Due
11:00 am OWL Luncheon
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 26

12:30 am Tai Chi Balance Class

Friday, August 28

1:00 pm Knitting in the Narthex
7:15pm AA—Good Orderly Direction

Sunday, August 30

9:30 am Worship

Prayer Requests from our Church Community

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

Friends and Relatives: Connie James, friend of Wendy Brenner; Josh & Nicole Irvin, family of Joel Irvin; Janet Callahan & Family, friends of Heather Abbott; 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; Kim Jones, sister-in-law of Trisha Ryan; 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.