



**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
&
PRESCHOOL**

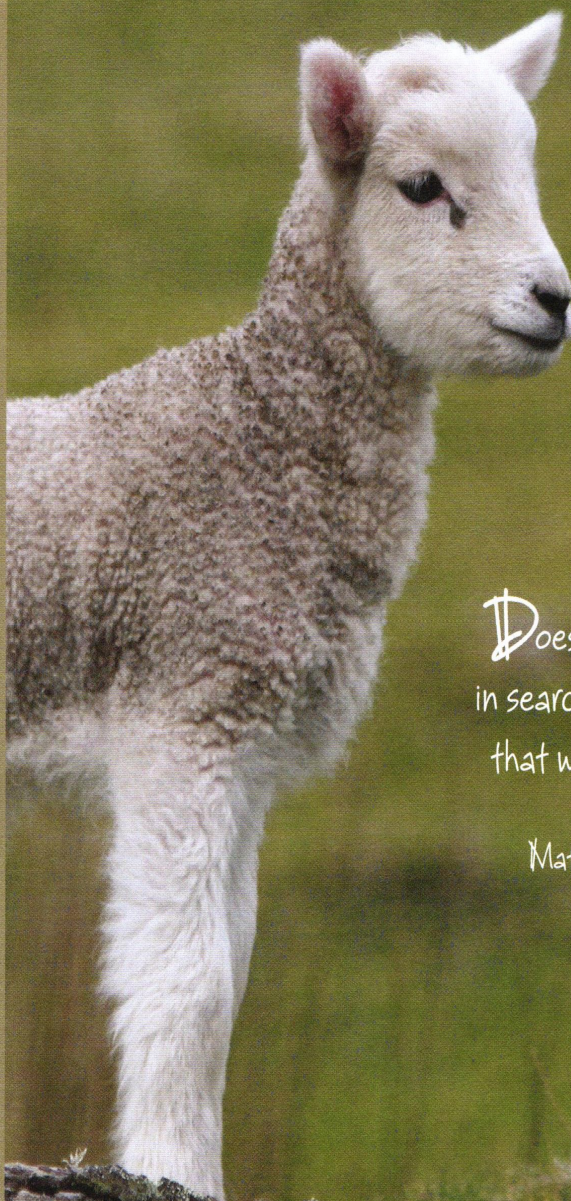
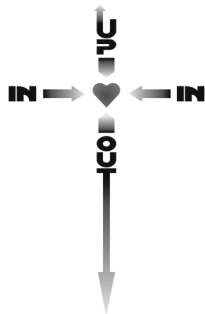
*A church of the
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod*

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*Does he not go
in search of the one
that went astray?*

Matthew 18:12



AS WE GATHER~ Although the attention of many is distracted on this Labor Day weekend, the focus of the Readings is clear. We have a Savior who has come to find the lost and restore them through forgiveness, and we have a purpose in speaking this Gospel to the whole world. This is not an easy calling. The lost often do not want to be found, and the wicked are content in their ways. We act not as self-appointed guardians of the truth but as instruments of God, through whom He speaks His Word of love to the lost and erring and by whom they are saved. The most difficult application is always to those who have fallen from the faith into error or sin. Our greatest temptation is to surrender them to their error or sin. Our greatest calling is to address them with the voice of God's Word through whom the Spirit works to restore the lost. Today we pray that we will not be distracted from this goal and purpose.

WELCOME FAMILIES WITH LITTLE ONES!!!

THE NURSERY: is available to parents for infants and young toddlers under 5 years old during worship in the nursery room in the fellowship hall. See an usher for assistance. **Quiet time activity bags are located at the back of the sanctuary hanging on the wooden cross for older children to use during the service.**

FAMILY ROOM: You will also find through the southeast door marked FAMILY ROOM, there are some quiet toys on the shelf if you want a quiet space for your little one.

WE are Live streaming!!!

Find us on – Facebook : “Christ Lutheran Church ”

Boxcast/Sunday streams : “Christ Lutheran Church Meridian, Idaho”

YouTube: “Christ Lutheran Church Meridian, Idaho”

ALSO on our web-site “CLCMeridian.org where there is a bulletin to follow

IF YOU DO NOT want your child filmed, we ask that they sit behind the pulpit. If you have any other concerns, please ask an Elder or Usher for help.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE COMMUNING...SEE BACK OF BULLETIN

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AVAILABLE--Personal hearing devices are available to assist those attending worship services at Christ Lutheran. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher for assistance.

FOR THOSE WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS, FEEL FREE TO STAY SEATED AS NEEDED DURING THE SERVICE AND STAND WHEN RECEIVING COMMUNION.

PLEASE! OUT OF RESPECT FOR THOSE AROUND YOU, PLEASE TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF (OR ON SILENT/VIBRATE) DURING WORSHIP.

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Christ Lutheran Church exists to glorify God, by making disciples that reach up, reach in, and reach out.

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—
PROPER 18**

Seeking the Lost
September 6, 2026

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “ Lord Jesus, Think on Me” (LSB) 610

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

GRADUAL *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

**People: Fear the LORD, you His saints,
for those who fear Him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

CONFESSION and GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF THE LORD *(We greet one another in peace.)*

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us extend the peace of God to one another.

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5* **People in Bold**

How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,**

to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!

KYRIE (pg. 944 in Hymnal)

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

HYMN/SONG OF PRAISE “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs” (LSB)
812

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
O almighty God, You sent forth Your Son to gather the lost and restore them to You by His blood shed once for all. Grant us the same love and mercy that we may seek out the sinner, recall them to You through repentance, and celebrate with joy their restoration to the Body of Christ, the church; through Him who died that we might live and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF GOD’S WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7–9* (I have made you a watchman.)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 13:1–10* (“Love is the fulfilling of the law.”)

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain.

For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:1–20* (The Son of Man came to seek the lost and save them.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (cont.)

¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. (cont.)

¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

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.

MESSAGE HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” (LSB) 850

SERMON

OFFERING

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.” — **Martin Luther (1483-1546)**,

OFFERTORY "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB) 781 vs. 3 and 4

3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead,
 And homes are bare and cold,
 And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled
 Are straying from the fold.

4 To comfort and to bless,
 To find a balm for woe,
 To tend the lone and fatherless
 Is angels' work below.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*Pastor invites prayer requests*)

After each petition Pastor will say, "Lord in Your mercy"

Our response:

People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (pg. 208 in hymnal)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace + of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI *(p. 163 in hymnal)*

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Have mercy on us

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Have mercy on us

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS/SONGS

"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" (LSB) 609

"Herald, Sound the note of Judgement" (LSB) 511

"Come, let Us Eat" (LSB) 626

NUNC DIMITTIS *(LSB 199)*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
depart in peace
according to Thy word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
Which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
A light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Isr-ael.
Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning,
is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Almighty and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
 you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN “O Christ, Who Called the twelve” (LSB) 856

- 1 O Christ, who called the Twelve
 To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways
 For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call
 To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You,
 Find perfect liberty.
- 2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve
 The truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith,
 The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray,
 By Your empow’ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek
 Their light, their life, their Lord.

- 3 O Christ, who led the Twelve
Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all
Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways
Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills
Where love is crucified.
- 4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve
On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim
The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith
Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains
Both life and ministry.
- 5 O Christ, the apostles' Lord,
The martyrs' strength and song,
The crucified and risen King
To whom the saints belong:
Though generations pass,
Our tribute still we bring,
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,
Our lives an offering.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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FOR THOSE WHO ARE COMMUNING...In keeping with Scripture, visitors who are active members of LCMS congregations (or from church bodies in fellowship with the LCMS) are asked to speak with the pastor or elder prior to the Sacrament. Because those who eat and drink the Lord's **Body and Blood** unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:29) and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith that is confessed at this altar, all other visitors are asked to make an appointment with the pastor to discuss the Lord's Supper prior to receiving the Sacrament.

Members and visitors alike, who have been instructed in the Christian faith, are encouraged to use the following questions:

Do I believe that in the Lord's Supper I receive Jesus' true **Body and Blood** with the bread and wine?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior, who paid for all of my sins on the cross and thereby saves me from eternal punishment?

Do I believe that I am a sinful being without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy in Christ?

Do I repent of all sin, and set aside any grudges or refusal to forgive and love as God forgives and loves us?

Do I intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to turn away from my sins and strive to live a Godly life?

This is not a judgment of an individual's faith but a matter of proper preparation and pastoral care of souls. (1 Corinthians 11:26-30) Thank you for your deference to the Biblical doctrine of this congregation.

Note: The red wine in the Communion tray is Non-alcohol and is available for those with medical limitations. GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

***IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMMUNION AT YOUR SEAT
PLEASE TELL THE USHER AND YOU WILL BE SERVED TOWARD THE
END OF COMMUNION.***

About the Cover: Every single little sheep in the Lord's flock is precious to Him. He, like a shepherd in search of his lost sheep, is willing to go to great lengths to find every missing sheep. You are also precious to Your Savior, who laid down His life for you on the cross (John 10:17). He knows you by name (John 10:3). He has gone to great lengths to find you, who was once lost. But today, you are found, and there is great rejoicing!