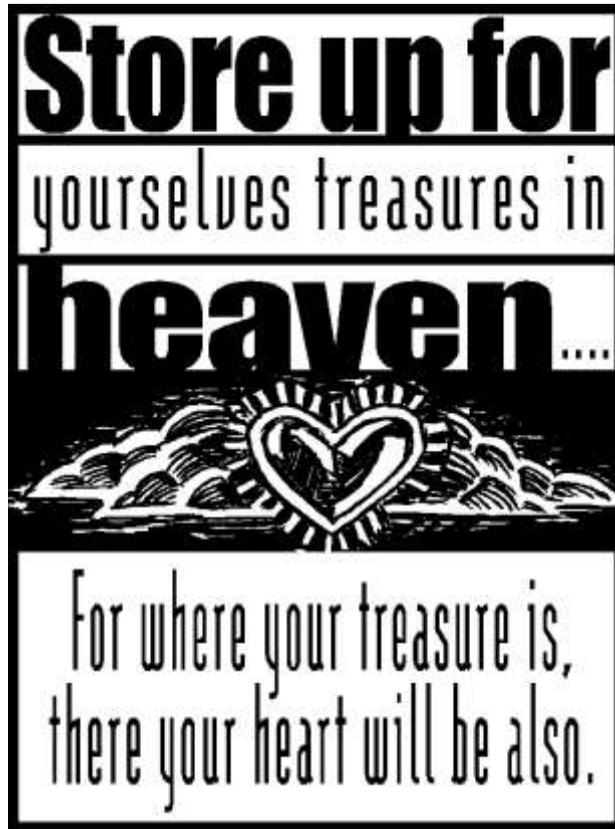


Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 7, 2022



Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Sunday, August 7, 2022- Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW p. 94

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Gathering Song –ELW 638 “*Blessed Assurance*”

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain

Apostolic Greeting: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

ELW p. 138

Hymn of Praise:

“*Glory to God*”

ELW p. 139

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6 *God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

P: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 33:12-22 ¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

P: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

P: The holy gospel according to Luke. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others. [Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jeff Forbes

Hymn of the Day – ELW 764 “Have No Fear, Little Flock” vs 1,3 & 4

1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!

3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!

4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

Apostle’s Creed

**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 power of 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

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Let us Pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Benediction

ELW p. 146

Sending Song – ELW #771 “*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*”

1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place, flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space: we, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you; great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.	2 We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race; known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space; probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r, facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.	3 As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew: children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you. May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun; great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We welcome you in Jesus' name to this Service of Worship. We pray that you will be blessed through the hearing of God's Word and our fellowship as people of faith. If you have any questions, please ask our ushers, and please sign our Guest Book in the narthex. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to our Interim Pastor as you leave the service. We are happy to have you with us today as we worship together!

Prayer Requests: Karen Roth; Karyl Dronen; Dianne Sherburne; the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Ushers Needed: Have you ever wanted to serve as an usher at church? We are looking for families or friend groups to serve as ushers for our services. Two or more people from a family or group can sign up for one or a group of Sundays. Sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office at cofc@acegroup.cc or 896-3102 or Jim Edwards at 896-2386 to volunteer to usher. Those students in confirmation or going into confirmation next year could use ushering as a service event for their confirmation requirements.

Pastor Jeff Forbes-Interim

revforbes@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.crossofchristhouston.org>

Church Number: 507-896-3102

Church Office Email: cofc@acegroup.cc

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



Vacation Bible School

This week starting tonight VBS begins! Knights of North Castle students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

After a high-energy opening assembly, the Knights make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Castle Callouts to equip the Knights for an active life with God. The Knights will discover a Banner Verse (Bible memory verse) that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS. The students will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring wonders at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Knights will hear about our mission project and their response to a call for action!

Join us at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 7 through Thursday, August 11 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Dinner will be served before VBS beginning at 5:30.

To register students, volunteer to help, or to find out more about Knights of North Castle, call the church office at 507-896-3102 or visit the church website at www.crossofchristhouston.org.



Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement

To give electronically, please search "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" and create account or download app.

Contact the church office with any questions.

AT CROSS OF CHRIST THIS WEEK: 8/07/22-8/14/22

TODAY: 8:30 In Person Worship Stone Church w/ Holy Communion
10:15 In-Person Worship Cross of Christ w/ Holy Communion
10:15 Facebook Live-Cross of Christ Worship
5:30 Vacation Bible School

MONDAY: Pastors Day Off
11:15 Meet Up and Eat Up
5:30 Vacation Bible School

TUESDAY: 5:30 Vacation Bible School

WEDNESDAY: 11:15 Meet Up and Eat Up
11:00 Prayer Group
5:30 Vacation Bible School

THURSDAY: 5:30 Vacation Bible School
6:00 Executive Council

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY: 8:30 In Person Worship Stone Church
 9:30 MSP Congregational Meeting at Cross of Christ
 10:15 In-Person Worship Cross of Christ
 10:15 Facebook Live-Cross of Christ Worship

Looking Ahead.....

August 17 Lawn Chair Concert Series
August 15 & 17 Meet Up and Eat Up
August 19 – 28 Apollo Music Festival

Keep in prayer our military personnel from the Houston Area:

Shawn Feller – U. S. Air Force	Zach Stackhouse – U.S. Army Reserves
Alex Edwards – U.S. Air Force	Jeffery VanGundy – National Guards
Tom & Heather Hegland-U.S.Air Force	Lauren Johnson – U.S. Air Force
Mike Swenson – U.S. Marines	Quentin Johnson – U.S. Marines
John Erickson – U.S. Air Force	Peter Jergenson – U.S. Air Force
Hope Stremcha – U.S. Army	Joey Snyder – U.S. Air Force
Joshua Vix – U.S. Army Reserves	Chris Meyer – U.S. Air Force
Sam Montgomery – U.S. Air Force	Andy Woxland – U.S. Navy
Jacob Rogich – U.S. Marines	Nick Skree – National Guard
Nicole Rogich – U.S. Marines	Victor Henk – U.S. Navy
Jason Hill – U.S. Marines	James Hill – U.S. Air Force
Alex Townsend – U.S. Air Force	Roy Kerrigan – Air National Guard
Gretchen Hill – U.S. Air Force	Jessica Gaustad-Ahlburg – U.S. Army
Victor Henk – U. S. Navy	

Addresses of our military personnel are needed: If you know the address of one of the above military personnel, please call Sharon Knudsen (896-2020) and give her the address. We would like to send greetings to each of our military personnel from the area.