

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH–ELCA
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“Inspired by the Holy Spirit to Serve”

Shared values of our Worshiping Community are:
Community + Generosity + Hospitality + Serving

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 2, 2026

Welcome to Worship!

We are thankful that your voice joins others in praise and thanksgiving today, and pray that in worship, you encounter a God of grace and mercy.

To help you during worship:

- Please feel free to ask an usher, greeter or other worshiper if you need assistance.
- For everyone, please fill out an attendance card in the fellowship pad found in each pew and pass them down the row.
- Throughout the bulletin, responses of the assembly are printed in bold type. The leader's portion is in regular font.
- Words to the hymns are printed on the PowerPoint. If these tunes are in a hymnal, hymn numbers are noted – ELW –Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red) or WOV – With One Voice (blue).
- If you are unable to hear during worship, Assistive Listening Devices are available as you enter the sanctuary. They may be used with or without hearing aids. Please contact an usher to assist.
- In the spirit of worship, please silence cell phones.
- Diaper changing station is located in the Family Bathroom in the hallway.
- Envelopes are provided in the pews for offering.
- We welcome children in worship! They are a blessing to the congregation. If time is needed to step out of the sanctuary with little ones, there are chairs available in the narthex. Also, children's activity bags are hanging on a stand in the narthex.

Holy Communion

Jesus is the host of this meal; it is he who invites us to the table and we exclude none whom Jesus himself would welcome.

- If you are physically unable to come forward, tell an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.
- White grape juice is in the center of the tray for those unable to drink wine.
- Gluten-free wafers are available. Tell the pastor/communion assistant serving you.
- Anyone not communing is invited to come forward for a blessing. Keep your hands folded to indicate you would like a blessing.

You may include any notes for the church office on the attendance card. Church office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 am-3:00 pm

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP WILL ALSO BE ON YOUTUBE FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP.

Introduction: In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

(*—please stand as you are able)

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

L: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: **"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" ELW 658**

*Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie (*spoken*) **ELW, p. 147**

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

L: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

R: Word of God, word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (read responsively)

R: ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C: ⁹ The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

R: ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

C: ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

R: ¹⁶ You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

C: ¹⁷ The Lord is just in all his ways and kind in all his doings.

R: ¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

C: ¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

R: ²⁰ The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

C: ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

R: Word of God, word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation: **“Alleluia!” ELW p. 151a**

L: The holy gospel according to Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

L: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Gretchen Ahrens

Hymn: **“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” ELW 484**

*Apostles’ Creed

C: 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 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**

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For your church in every place, that it satisfies those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers, that God's word is broken open and shared with all. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For your wondrous creation and all the bounty it provides, that your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings your abundance to our tables. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in your mercy, that their witness continues to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust your promises in life and in death. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Peace**

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

Offering/Offering Music

(We contemplate our response to all that God has given us.)

***Offertory: “We Are an Offering” ELW 692**

***Offering Prayer**

L: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord’s Prayer**

All: 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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

L: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song: “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” ELW 536**

***Dismissal**

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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WORSHIP MINISTRY

Ministers.....	Members of the Congregation
Pastor.....	James Anderson
Cell: 402-570-9050; E-mail: janderson007@luthersem.edu	
Worship Leader.....	Gretchen Ahrens
Organist.....	Nadine Hibbert
Greeters.....	Burley & Genell Copas
Ushers.....	Bill & Rebecca Behrends
Door Greeters/Ass't Ushers	Jeremy & Michelle Engelman
Reader.....	Janet Byars
Communion.....	Bill Behrends
Livestream	Terri Huls
PowerPoint Presenter.....	
On-call councilperson-August.....	Inez Trauernicht, 402-239-0469

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH! *We are delighted to have you with us in worship this weekend. Whether you come each week or came today for the first time, you are a valuable member of God's family and we're glad you're here! You are invited to stay for fellowship following worship.*

WELCOME AND THANK YOU to Gretchen Ahrens from the Nebraska Synod, ELCA for leading our worship this morning.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Solveig Bischoff (Aug. 2), Denny Russell (Aug. 3), Kevin Otto (Aug. 5), Willard Rippe, Jessica Bruguera (Aug. 6), Waylon Chenoweth, Roma Garrison (Aug. 8).

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Roma Garrison who will turn 91 on August 8. God's blessings to you – we wish you a happy and healthy year!

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Matt & Sommer Sejkora (8-4-01).

IT'S TIME FOR BINGO AGAIN!

Please join us for an evening of fun on **Sunday, August 9, beginning at 5:00 p.m.** Enjoy **Bingo, prizes, pizza, and pop**—what a great way to spend a Sunday evening! A special thank you to Jackie Rinne for sponsoring this event with a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Card.

FUNDS BEING RAISED FOR PROPERTY PROJECTS: We are collecting donations for two unexpected property projects at church: Concrete on the south side of the church (cost-\$1416.00) and removing the bell from the roof and rewiring it to a new site (final cost not determined yet). If you would like to help with these, you can use an envelope from the pews, put your name on it and mark your donation as "Property Projects". (See the August newsletter for more details.) Thank you!

PLEASE HELP FILL OUR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS!

Our summer project this year is School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will be

collecting items throughout the summer and then assembling them on September 12/13. Please watch for sales on these items, add them to your shopping lists and bring them to church. Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies sometimes mean the difference between getting an education or not. In the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development. Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. Many of these school kits go to war torn countries where the children are affected through no fault of their own. The bags are sent with no symbols for their own safety. All items should be new and in good condition. You can leave your donations in the tub in the narthex. Thank you for your gifts to this ministry! Thank you to Shirley Wiens for providing a \$250 Thrivent Action Team card for the purchase of the school bags and to Genell Copas for coordinating this project.

We surpassed our goal of 100 last year—Can we do it again this year?

Each School Kit needs:

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener One box of 16 or 24 crayons

One 2½" eraser

One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION: All voting members of the congregation are asked to attend a brief Special Meeting of the Congregation at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, August 16, 2026. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on changes to our constitution. Please see the July newsletter or the table in the narthex for items we will be voting on. If you have any questions, see Pastor James.

YOU ARE WELCOME to use envelopes from the pews for your offerings. If you wish to be credited for what you give, please be sure to write your name on the outside of the envelope. Thank you!

JOYFUL STEPS: Each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. come join us for our weekly hour of fellowship and exercise. No equipment needed. You may wish to bring a bottle of water. See you all then!

THE LIVE STREAM of Holy Cross worship is on our YouTube Channel. To access the YouTube live stream go to the Holy Cross website www.holycrossbeatrice.com. There is a link to the live stream on the homepage and also on the "Watch Live" page.

FREE DEVOTIONALS: Please pick up your free copy of Portals of Prayer, Christ in Our Home, or Our Daily Bread. They can be found on the table in the narthex.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:

Sunday, Aug. 2....	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship
Tuesday, Aug. 4.....	10:00 a.m. Joyful Steps
Thursday, Aug. 6...	8:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship @ Ringside
Saturday, Aug. 8...	6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
Sunday, Aug. 9....	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship
	10:15 a.m. Memorial & Gifts Team Meeting
	5:00 p.m. Bingo and Pizza Night
Office Hours...	8:30-3:00-Tuesday, Thursday & Friday