

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Aaron Dawson

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME

## INVOCATION

*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (pg. 56 LBW)

*P: 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.*

**C: Amen**

*P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*P: Most merciful God, C: we confess that we are in bondage 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**

*P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives the sins of all who trust on the merit of Jesus Christ alone. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen*

*P: However, to all unrepentant sinners and despisers of God, of His Words, and of His Holy Sacraments, I say from God's Word and in the name of Jesus Christ, that God has kept their sins and will certainly punish in time and eternity, so long as they, during this time of grace, refuse to turn from them and to repent. We wish them from the heart that they would repent.*

**C: Amen**

## OPENING HYMN

**LBW #377 "Lift High the Cross"**

## GREETING (pg. 57 LBW)

*P: 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.*

## HYMN OF PRAISE (pgs. 58-59 LBW)

*P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.*

**C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

SALUTATION (pg. 62 LBW)

*P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you. P: Let us pray.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord. C: Amen*

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-24

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 119:169-176

*L: Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding, according to your word.*

**C: Let my supplication come before you; deliver me, according to your promise.**

*L: My lips shall pour forth your praise, when you teach me your statutes.*

**C: My tongue shall sing of your promise, for all your commandments are righteous.**

*L: Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your commandments.*

**C: I long for your salvation, O LORD, and your law is my delight.**

*L: Let me live, and I will praise you, and let your judgments help me.*

**C: I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; search for your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Timothy 1:5-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (pg. 62 LBW) **Congregation Sings: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 15:1-10

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter. Congregation sings: Glory to you, O Lord. (After Gospel is read) P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.*

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Aaron Dawson

HYMN OF THE DAY

**LBW #481 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"**  
**(Sung to the tune of LBW #50)**

### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

*L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: And also with you.*

### OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** (pg. 66 LBW) **(Please rise)** **Congregation Sings:** Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** (pg. 67 LBW) *P: Merciful Father,* **C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** (pgs. 68-69 LBW)

*P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.*

*P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.*

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*P: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth....as he comes to us in his holy supper.*

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**LAMB OF GOD** (pg. 72 LBW) **Congregation Sings:** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING, CANTICLE & PRAYER** (pgs. 72 LBW) **(Please rise as you are able)** **Congregation sings:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**BENEDICTION** (Sung)

*P: 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. C: Amen*

**CLOSING HYMN**

**LBW #260 "On Our Way Rejoicing"**

**DISMISSAL**

*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866**  
**(217) 893-4550 (217) 892-8024 (fax)**  
**amluthoffice@gmail.com    www.alc-rantoul.org**

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*“You are the Good Shepherd, Lord — you lead, protect, and restore (Psalm 23).  
As I enter worship, guide my heart back to your peace.”*

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**NEWEST PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Genet Dixon    Dave Overholt  
Family of Carol Stultz (sister/Lois Madden)

**CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Karen Bruns	Rich Friemel	Clarence Stanfill	Martha Stanfill
Sondra Sipes	Ray Hoff	Daniel Rodriquez	Kim Wyre
Annette Carlson	Marlys Morris	Wilma Suits	Brian Dietz
Karen Flessner	Roberta Arthur	Steve Schluter	Eugene Schmidt
Tracie Sisneros	Glenn Behnke	John Keith	Pen Pendleton
Denny Doyle	Pr. Barb Busboom	Rodney Larkin	Geraldine Gorecki
Lee Briggs	Carla Adkins	Jessica Hawn	Earl Smith
Gabbi Reynolds	Ben Moser	William Benton	Steve Ritchie
Sharon Lohen	Mary Mallicoat	Nick Shepherd	Michael Markarian
Joyce Keith	Merrill Wattjes	Joan Percival	Joyce Williamson
Bob & Jenny Hobby			

**NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:**

Keith Dohleman	Joan Mathis	Luella Loschen	Loretta Overholt
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**MILITARY (Bolded names are known to be in an area of higher danger):**

Jon Stiebner	Alex Short	Brandon Elrod	Kasey Fenimore
Levi Loschen	Ryan Falletti	Riley Falletti	Eli Baker

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**TABLE GUILD**

**ACOLYTES**

**GREETERS**

**LECTOR**

**PRAYER LEADER**

**WORSHIP STEWARD**

**USHERS**

Emily Deal, Sheila Sherman

Peyton Cox, Liam Hall

Jack & Brenda Spitz

Chrissie Hall

Jim Cheek

Sheila Sherman

Kyndall Cox, John & Rhonda Keith

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP** Welcome, friends — new and familiar! The psalmist reminds us: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). May our hearts be open today to God’s presence, peace, and purpose.

**FLOWERS TODAY** are provided by *Scott, Tina & Joshua James* in memory of Tina’s mom, Iverne Johnson’s, birthday on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** The fourth quarter Portals of Prayer (October-December) are available to pick-up in the Narthex and outside of the church office.

**SUNDAY MORNING WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY CLASS** invites you join us for our new study about the prophet Gideon. His story teaches us that God transforms our weaknesses into triumphs that unlock His strength. Please join us for conversation, fun, and a whole lot of Bible study. This session starts today right after church in the Confirmation room. Hope to see you there. Blessings!

**ACOLYTE TRAINING** will be held today during the Sunday School hour for any child wanting to become an acolyte.

**YOUTH GROUP MISSION PROJECT** Tonight at 6:00 p.m., we invite the congregation to join with the youth for their monthly mission project. This month we will have a pew polishing party. We will be cleaning, polishing and restoring the pews in the sanctuary. Please help if you can!

**BLOOD DRIVE** The ImpactLife Blood Drive will be held at American Lutheran Church this Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. in the ALC Youth Hall.

**OPEN HOUSE** for the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Loretta Fruhling Elliott will be held on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at American Lutheran Church. All are invited to attend.

**GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT CONVOCATION** will be held here at American Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. More information will be posted in upcoming bulletins. Cost to attend will be a \$10 donation to cover for lunch. Please call the church office at (217)893-4550 by Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, if you plan to attend.

**SOUND BOOTH HELP NEEDED** We are still needing additional people to help in the Sound Booth. Please call Neal White (217-840-4471) or the church office (217-893-4550) if you are interested or would like more information.

**SHEETS NEEDED** The Quilting group is still accepting donations of flat cotton sheets to be used for liners in the quilts. Donations may be brought to the church office.

**CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION** If you are a baptized believer, trusting that the life giving and sustaining power and presence of Christ is truly present in bread and wine, we welcome you to the Lord’s table. Children who commune in their home congregations are welcome to commune; those who are not currently communing at the Lord’s table are invited to come forward for a blessing keeping their hands to their sides. The center of each tray holds light colored, non-alcoholic juice for those with special circumstances. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request for those with allergies.

**ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK:**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service – 134

**BROADCAST/FLOWER CHART** The cost to sponsor the broadcast on WPXN is \$50. The cost to provide flowers for Sunday is \$25. Please sign up on the chart outside the Narthex and call the office with the details to print in the bulletin.

**ATTENTION USHERS** Please check in with the worship steward on duty when you arrive to ensure that they know you are here and can assign you the area you are to cover.

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-15; Luke 16:1-15

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**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, September 14**

9:00 a.m.   Worship Service  
10:00 a.m.   Sunday School  
              Women's Bible Study  
              Acolyte Training  
6:00 p.m.   Youth Group – Mission Project

**Monday, September 15**

12:30 p.m.   Quilting

**Wednesday, September 17**

11:30 a.m.   ImpactLife Blood Drive  
1:00 p.m.   Women's Bible Study  
4:00 p.m.   Bell Choir Practice

**Thursday, September 18**

9:00 a.m.   Bible Study

**Sunday, September 21**

9:00 a.m.   Worship Service  
10:00 a.m.   Sunday School  
              Women's Bible Study  
6:00 p.m.   Youth Group – Bible Study

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**Radio Broadcast Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m. on WPXN 104.9FM**

**Daily Prayers & Lessons – Week of the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 14, 2025 – September 20, 2025**

*Prayer: Almighty God, Father in Heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the Cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we who glory in his death for our salvation may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. Amen*

**Daily Lessons:**

Note: The following first readings are Deuterocanonical books.

Although they should be in all Bibles, they are most often only found in study Bibles or Bibles misnamed, Catholic Bibles. They can also be found online at

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Tobit 1&version=RSVCE>

Sunday	Judith 7:1-32	Psalm 119:161-168	Revelation 19:1-10
Monday	Judith 8:1-36	Psalm 119:169-176	Revelation 19:11-21
Tuesday	Judith 9:1-10:23	Psalm 120	Revelation 20:1-10
Wednesday	Judith 11:1-23	Psalm 121	Revelation 20:11-15
Thursday	Judith 12:1-13:20	Psalm 122	Revelation 21:1-14
Friday	Judith 14:1-19	Psalm 123	Revelation 21:15-27
Saturday	Judith 15:1-16:25	Psalm 124	Revelation 22:1-7

**Morning Prayer** We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words, and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen

**Mid-Day Prayer** Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour you bore our sins in your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and, through your grace, eternal glory in the life to come; where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever. Amen

**Evening Prayer** We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen

American Lutheran Church

# TRUNK or TREAT



**Sunday, October 26th from 3-5 p.m.**

This is a trick-or-treat opportunity for kids AND a treat-giving opportunity for adults. Instead of going house-to-house trick-or-treating, kids will go from car to car. Adults will pass out treats from the trunk or tailgate of their vehicle.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Our optional theme will be **Favorite Movie**. But don't let the theme scare you away from participating, you are more than welcome to decorate however you choose. A quick search on the internet or Pinterest can also give you a good starting point!

You can decorate as simple or elaborate as you would like as long as it is kid and church-friendly. We'll be asking everyone to vote for their favorite trunk. Top trunk will win a prize!

This event will be setup around the park across the street from the church. We will have games, activities and a weenie roast. All ages welcome!

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**SIGN UP!** Let us know how you would like to participate by circling one or more of the following options. Tear this portion off and return in the offering plate or contact Joyce Holland at 217.841.4319 or rrjah@aol.com.

**Hosting a Trunk   Hot Dog Buns   1-Dozen Cookies**

**Game Volunteer   Food Volunteer   Hot Dogs**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_