

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Aaron Dawson

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK

Deanne Rosenbeck

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 #504 "O God, My Faithful God"

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: O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Amos 8:4-7

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 113

L: Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

C: Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

L: From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

C: The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

L: Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

C: He takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

L: He sets them with the princes, with the princes of his people.

C: He makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Timothy 2:1-15

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 16:1-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th 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

WOV #776 "Be Thou My Vision"

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 #196 "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing"

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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*“God, I confess I don’t always understand your ways. But like Peter, I say,
“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).
Help me trust you more today.”*

NEWEST PRAYER CONCERNS:

Breen Sipes (daughter-in-law/J.R. & Sondra Sipes) Paul Albers (brother/Judy Quinlan)
Family of Lance Baugher Family of Carol Stultz

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	Genet Dixon
Dave Overholt	Loretta Overholt		

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

TABLE GUILD

ACOLYTES

GREETERS

LECTOR

PRAYER LEADER

WORSHIP STEWARD

USHERS

Emily Deal, Sheila Sherman

Jack Flesner, Connor Suits

Mary Peters, Char Sons

Sean O'Donnell

Sheila Sherman

Terry Doyle

Aubrie Albers, Leon & Cheryl Freese

WELCOME TO WORSHIP as we enter a new season. Autumn's turning leaves remind us of God's creative power and faithful rhythm of change. May this hour be one of reflection, gratitude, and renewal.

OFFICE CLOSED The church office will be closed this Wednesday, September 24th.

NO MARTHA'S TABLE MEALS There will be no Martha's Table meals delivered for the month of September.

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

DISASTER RESPONSE SILENT AUCTION QUILT This military themed quilt was recently donated and is on display in the Narthex. Because of its special interest, we are offering it up for auction within our District and the funds raised will be used for Disaster Response expenses. Please email your name, phone number and amount of your bid to tdoyle2@msn.com from now until October 10th. In-person bids may be offered during the Convocation and the winner will be selected that day. The winner need not be present to win.

SALADS & DESSERTS NEEDED for the Great Rivers Mission District Convocation luncheon which will be held on Saturday, October 11th. They will need to be brought to the church kitchen by 10:00 a.m. that day. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT CONVOCATION will be held here at ALC on Saturday, October 11th. Cost to attend is \$10 to cover for lunch. Please call the church office or visit their event page at: <https://www.greatriversmissiondistrict.com/events> by Friday, October 3rd, to register.

MISSION FESTIVAL SUNDAY - OCTOBER 12TH Mark your calendars now for our Mission Sunday on October 12th. Maddie Benson, Director of Development will be here to help share the vision of NALC for our youth and seminarians. She is part of the Leadership Core Team of the NALC. There will be a Question-and-Answer time available after the worship service in the Youth Hall.

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.

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 – 150

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 6:1-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 16:19-31

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, September 22

12:30 p.m. Quilting

Wednesday, September 24 OFFICE CLOSED

1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, September 25

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, September 28

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 Women's Bible Study

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

Daily Prayers & Lessons – Week of the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025 – September 27, 2025

Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, Father in Heaven, your Son our Savior called a despised collector of taxes to become one of his apostles. Help us, like Matthew, to respond to the transforming call of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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	1 Maccabees 1:1-28	Psalm 125	Revelation 22:8-21
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Note: The following third 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. <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Revised-Standard-Version-Catholic-Edition-RSVCE-Bible/#booklist>

Monday	1 Maccabees 1:29-64	Psalm 126	Wisdom of Solomon 1:1-16
Tuesday	1 Maccabees 2:1-41	Psalm 127	Wisdom of Solomon 2:1-11
Wednesday	1 Maccabees 2:42-70	Psalm 128	Wisdom of Solomon 2:12-24
Thursday	1 Maccabees 3:1-37	Psalm 129	Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-13a
Friday	1 Maccabees 3:38-60	Psalm 130	Wisdom of Solomon 3:13b-19
Saturday	1 Maccabees 4:1-35	Psalm 131	Wisdom of Solomon 4:1-9

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



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!

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 _____