



Whoever

does not bear
his own cross . . .
cannot be My disciple

Luke 14:27

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Joe Leech

Our Mission

“To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known”

Our Vision

Educate, Equip and Encourage ourselves and our families through worship and study, and engage our community through discipleship, example and Acts of Kindness, using the unique gifts bestowed on each member of our congregation by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship Information

Parents with Young Children: We encourage families to worship together.

Worship Bulletin: Our order of service is printed out in your worship folder.

Worship Form: There are 5 “Movements” in our Worship.

- God grants us the gift of forgiveness.
- God speaks to us from His Word.
- God receives our offerings and prayers.
- God offers us His real presence in Holy Communion.
- God blesses us and sends us out.

Communion: Please read the Statement of Communion below.

(If you are *gluten intolerant* please speak with Pastor or an elder prior to the worship service so we can accommodate you.)

STATEMENT OF COMMUNION

BECAUSE THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT:

- We are all sinners in need of forgiveness.
- Jesus is our only Savior from sin through His death and resurrection.
- The True Body and Blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion



Please see Pastor if you have any questions about this or do not believe in the Lord's Supper in this way. You are welcome to come forward for a blessing if you are not communing.

- Please see Pastor if there is something going on in your life that needs the attention of Christ in private confession *and* absolution.

AS WE GATHER-- Jesus is blunt about the cost of discipleship. He does not sugarcoat the life He calls us to in the baptismal waters but neither does He diminish His promises, gifts, and blessings that accompany this life of faith. Today He calls us to count the cost, knowing that the way of the Christian is constantly tested and tried by our affection for the things of this life, our vulnerability to the enemies of the faith, and the weakness of our own sinful flesh. Part of that cost is not just in what you desire but also in what you are willing to surrender for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.

.....
WITNESS AND OUTREACH-- Luke 14:25-35: In His teaching, Jesus said that salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? Jesus taught that we, as His followers, are like salt on Earth to season and preserve good things. Witnessing to Jesus is the best way that we can be like salt to this world.

WELCOME to GUESTS & VISITORS

Hymns will be from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB).



HYMN

✠ PREPARATION ✠

“Come, Thou Almighty King” LSB 905

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pause for silent reflection and self examination.

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father,

People: we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Pastor: We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

People: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil
Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You
command.

People: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and
from one another and have not confessed honestly before
You or to those whom we have hurt.

**People: We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in
thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is
wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have
mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

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. The
peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

✠ WORD ✠



HYMN OF PRAISE “This is the Feast”

LSB 155

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only
Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and
strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Deuteronomy 30:15–20* (I have set before you this
day life and good, death and evil.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 1* (Blessed is the one who walks in the way of righteousness.)

EPISTLE *Philemon 1–21* (Paul’s letter commending the slave Onesimus back to his master, not only as a slave but as a brother in the Lord.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 14:25–35* (Jesus speaks of the cost of discipleship and calls on those who would follow Him to deny themselves and take up the cross.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.


People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

 **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

 **HYMN** “‘Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake” LSB 688

SERMON “Counting the Cost of Following Jesus”

CREED *Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day
He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all
people according to their needs.
That we walk with Christ the heavenly way and follow Him
where He has led, that by His obedient life, His life-giving
death, and His victorious resurrection we receive the crown of
everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we be wise unto salvation, counting the cost of following Jesus, and by His grace and favor be sustained upon the path of life against all temptations and doubt, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That all the nations and their leaders work for peace, that the elected and appointed leaders of our own land act with integrity in the protection of our liberty and in the pursuit of justice, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord bless the proclamation of His Word here and in every place and that pastors serve us faithfully in Christ's name, distributing to us the gifts of His grace in the Holy Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That all those afflicted in body or mind find healing and relief and those near death and the grieving find comfort, [*especially . . .*], and for all whom we name in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we learn gratitude for the manifold and rich gifts which God supplies every day and that we learn generosity to share with those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we receive in repentance and with faith the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given to us in this Holy Communion and that we manifest the unity of heart and mind in all the doctrines taught us by His Word, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we be kept holy and blameless until the day of Christ's coming and be received by the mercy of God into the place of everlasting light and life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Silence for meditation.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERTORY

(in offering plate at entrance to sanctuary)



HYMN “Create in Me” LSB 192-193

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy” LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Cor. 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: And also with you. **Amen.**



AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God” LSB 163

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

See LSB 329: Christian Questions with Their Answers prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.



NOTE: Pastor will come around again, offering the COMMON CUP.



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior” LSB 627

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” LSB 707

“Jesus, Lead Thou On” LSB 718

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

Pastor: Now this, the Body and Blood of Christ, crucified, risen and ascended, strengthen you, nourish you and keep you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

People: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

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

People: **and His mercy endures forever.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may

always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.**



HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

LSB 918

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.

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NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34:11-24

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 1:12-17

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10

TITHE & OFFERING – our sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord

Our “**tithes**” are our first fruits returned to God in proportional, joyful, thankful and faithful response to His grace. “**Offerings**” are special gifts for ministries, memorials and needs over and above the tithe.

(If you are a guest, we welcome you as a guest. Please do not feel obligated to give an offering unless you feel moved to do so by the Spirit.)

August Financial Recap:

August Givings (Thank you!):	\$24,518.53
Monthly Need:	<u>\$22,265.10</u>
Overage:	\$ 2,253.43

Parking Lot Project:
\$74,353
Goal: \$100,000
(\$12,869.95 remains on the \$50,000 loan.)

We had another large IRA donation in August. Praise God! YTD, we are now \$569.88 ahead and are fully funded according to the approved budget for the year. Thank you for your continued offerings and support of the ministries at Beautiful Savior!

Scrip Profits 8/11/25-8/24/25: \$9.50

Life Quote: **September 7** “Difficult situations like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can tempt us to forget our Savior’s presence and power. Comfort comes not from making deals with death but from the gifts He brings and the privileges He brings even in and through hardship. An everlasting, unchanging, and all-sufficient Creator and Keeper not only provides life, He protects it as well!” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

CALENDAR:

Sept. 8—Women’s Bible Study, 6pm

Sept. 12—Friday morning Bible Study begins again, 10am

Sept. 14—Church Picnic, Sunday School Kick-Off,

Dessert Contest, Yard Games, Jump House

Sept. 16—Gov. Bd. Mtg. 6:30pm

Sept. 21—Congregational Meeting to look at CWLHS Blueprints;

New Member Classes Begin, 11:45-12:45pm

Sept. 24—**Family Night and Confirmation Classes, 6-7:30pm**

Oct. 2—First Choice Banquet of Life

Oct. 5—Oktoberfest @ BSLC, after church

Oct. 18—9am-Noon, Governance Board Strategic Planning



CHURCH PICNIC, SEPT. 14th: **Potluck (after church), Dessert Contest, Yard Games, Jump House, Backpack Blessings, 3rd Grade Bible Presentations**

Congregational Meeting: On September 21, following church, we will be sharing architectural blueprints with the congregation for how the high school will be using our facilities. The Board has been working with the high school steering committee and the architects. Please plan to attend

Oktoberfest: Sunday, October 5th after church. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Bring a dish to pass and your own bier.



Central Wisconsin Lutheran High School:

Save the date! The first annual *Counting the Stars Gala* to benefit Central Wisconsin Lutheran High School will take place on October 24th, from 6-9pm, at Immanuel Mission Center in Wisconsin Rapids. Tickets are on sale online at the QR code here. A table seats 8 if you'd like to arrange with a bunch of friends and family to go together! Individual tickets can also be purchased.

Did you know that Central Wisconsin Lutheran High School has a monthly e-newsletter? Sign up here to stay up to date on all the latest news with this exciting new school! <http://cwlhs.com/newsletter>

Friday Morning Bible Study: Noah—The Man, the Ark, the Flood

The Genesis account in chapters 6-9 chronicles Noah and his devout righteousness to the corruption and violence God saw at work in the world around Noah. Along with his immediate family, Noah is singled out for God's blessing and salvation from the waters of a flood. God presents a visible covenant of His grace in the rainbow to never again destroy the earth by a flood. See you Friday, 10-11:30am.

Family Nights: Starting **Wednesday, September 24th**, the whole congregation is invited to join us at church for 6pm potluck. This will be followed with Confirmation classes for our confirmands, and adult Bible class from 6:30-7:30. Children's activities will be available as well.

Baked Potato Sunday: Orphan Grain Train will have a Baked Potato Sunday on November 9, 2025 at 11 a.m. There will be a free will offering for shipping of the boxes the Orphan Grain Train ships. Estimated cost of a box is \$11. Any questions please see a member of S.A.L.T.-LWML.

Important dates for the Governance Board:

- Sept. 16th: 6pm Board Meeting
- Sept. 23rd: 5:30pm Small Group at the Leeches (bring meat to grill and a dish to pass)
- Oct. 18th: 9am - noon Strategic Planning

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Prayer List : 9/7/2025 – 9/13/2025

Ongoing prayers for Grief & Loss: (Named & Not Named):

Family of Art Holford; Schultz Family; Family of Sharon Hughes

Situations:

Suicide Attempts, Cancer, Christian Parenting, Caregivers, AODA (those struggling with alcohol and other substance abuse), those struggling with mental health

Military: Devante; Emily; Nick

Pending Diagnosis & Treatment:

Ken Resch (Father of Julie Barge); Mary Gray

Hospitalized/Recovering:

Circuit 17:

St Luke-Rapids (continuing the Call process for a Pastor); Bethlehem-Nekoosa (continuing the Call process for a Pastor)

Shut-ins: Mary S.; Anita C.

Birthdays:

9/7 Sterling Lutz

9/8 Dan Hinrichs

9/8 Emmett Kraemer

9/11 Rich Davis

9/13 Ryan Hardin

Baptism Birthdays:

9/10 Emmett Kraemer

9/12 Brenna Lockman

9/13 Joey Diekelman

9/13 Marina Kubisiak

9/13 Sandy Wagoner

Anniversaries:

9/8 Pete & Karol Harris (41 yrs)

9/8 Mike & Cindy Marczak (35 yrs)

9/10 Aaron & Kristin Ehlinger (14 yrs)

9/10 Dale & Charlene Kawleski (20 yrs)

9/11 Jeff & Lisa Viegut (26 yrs)

9/12 Chad & Tammy Kowalski (27 yrs)

Missions:

First Choice Resource Center

Camp Luther

Peace Campus Center & Pastor Andy

Weden

St. Paul Lutheran Elementary School

Immanuel Lutheran School

Central WI Lutheran High School

Wycliffe & Lutheran Bible Translators &

Linda Jordan

J.P. & Aimee Cima & Family

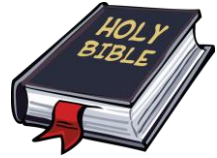
Orphan Grain Train Center

Christ Care / Carpenter's Crew

***Please let us know if you have any prayer requests – Thank you! ***

Sept. 7-13, 2025

Week 37 “Bible in a Year” Questions:



2 Samuel 1-9:

1. What effect does the death of Saul (and Jonathan) have on David (ch.1)?
2. Who were Abner and Ish-Bosheth? How did they feel about David being the King of Israel (ch.2-3)?
3. How did the death of Ish-Bosheth clear the way for David to ascend the throne of all of Israel (5:1-5)?
4. Who was Mephibosheth and how did David show kindness to him (ch.9)?

Ezekiel 10-16:

1. How do you feel reading about the glory departing from the temple in Jerusalem (the temple Solomon built) (ch.10)?
2. How can you tell the difference between a false prophet and a true prophet of God (ch.13)?

1 Corinthians 12-16, 2 Corinthians 1-2:

1. How can the church embrace the teaching in 1 Cor.12 about “one body with many parts?”
2. In 1 Cor.15:33, Paul quotes a Greek poet who wrote, “Bad company corrupts good character.” How can you be a witness to all people while being careful this doesn’t happen?

General Questions to consider:

1. What did you learn from this week’s readings?
2. Is there something in these readings that surprised you?
3. What is one passage that encourages or challenges you? How?

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15–20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Epistle: Philemon 1–21

¹Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ²and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, ⁶and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹²I am

sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. ¹⁵For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25–35

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”



About the Cover: Christ's cross stands in contrast to the world, even as it shapes the lives of His disciples. We all have our own crosses to bear, and to deny them is ultimately to deny Christ. Death comes before resurrection. Yet in God's baptismal grace, we daily die to sin and are raised to the newness of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:4).