



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

June 15th, 2025

*1st Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Trinity
Father's Day*

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A Service of Worship and Praise

We Gather in God's Name

GREETING

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 329

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Minister says: We begin our worship in praise the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation says: AMEN

We Prepare our Hearts

M: As believers in Christ, we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James, we are told, "Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

C: Lord, I pray to You because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from You and others by the sin in my life. I need Your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today, in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. AMEN.

We sing:

Change My Heart

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

|: You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. :|

M: We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He has sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin and restore sight to the blind, to give mercy to those whose lives are shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave His only son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord.

C: AMEN.

We sing:

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

|: Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from Heaven to Earth to show the way;
from the Earth to the Cross, my debt to pay;
from the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high. :|

WE PRAY TOGETHER

M: Almighty God, you are eager to grant your goodness...

C: ...and joyful in sharing your grace.

M: You invite us into your presence...

C: ..to worship you with all our hearts.

M: Breathe your holy Spirit on us...

C: ...so that our tongues are eager to shout your praise!

M: Breathe your Holy Spirit on us...

C: ...so that our mouths are ready to proclaim the good news of Your Son.

M: Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN.

We Listen to God's Word

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 6:22-27

²² The LORD said to Moses, ²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴ ""The LORD bless you
and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.""

²⁷ "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

We sing:

Shine Jesus Shine

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!

Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.

Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,

In the midst of the darkness shining.

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;

Set us free by the truth You now bring us.

Shine on me. Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!

Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.

Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:1-5

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our

sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

John 16:12-15

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

African-American Heritage Hymnal 327

Come, Thou Almighty King

SERMON

The Blessing of the Triune God Rests Upon You!

Numbers 6:22-27

PLEASE STAND

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him, all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from Heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who, in unity with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

AMEN.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

African-American Heritage Hymnal 342

We Gather Together

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper, we celebrate the gift of His redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim His death until He returns.

C: Now have come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory, forever and ever.

We sing:

Glorify Thy Name

Father, we love you; we worship and adore you.

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you; we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you; we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: AMEN

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood. Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: *You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that*

communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Christian Worship 397

Just As I Am

THANKSGIVING:

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

|: And now, let the weak say, "I am strong",

Let the poor say, "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us! :|

Give thanks!

C: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised You here may glorify You in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of Your Son may long for His coming again, and that all who have received in His true body and blood the pledge of Your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN.

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

BLESSING

M: Brothers and Sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: AMEN

CLOSING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 567

Here I Am Lord

Bringing a gospel message of hope to Ellensburg, Wash.

The Pacific Northwest District Mission Board is partnering with [Grace Lutheran Church](#) in Yakima, Wash., to help restart a WELS congregation in Ellensburg, Wash. More than one hundred years ago, several WELS congregations were established throughout central Washington. A mission-minded pastor in Yakima arrived by train to small cities and looked in the phone book for German-sounding last names to contact and start German Lutheran congregations. This was successful church planting in the early 1900s. Over time, there were seven or eight thriving churches scattered throughout the eastern range and valleys of the Cascade Mountains.

Sadly, many of these churches have either closed or are about to close their doors. This included Good Hope Lutheran Church in Ellensburg, which closed several years ago. But this is not the desire of three WELS families who have moved into the area. Together, they have formed a core group under the direction of Rev. Nathan Zastrow from Grace in Yakima, with prayerful intent to apply for and receive mission restart status from WELS Board for Home Missions.

The committed core group has spent the past year doing extensive work both inside and outside the existing church property. A WELS Mission Journeys team from Appleton, Wis., arrived to assist with landscaping, rebuild stairs to the entrance, and provide a fresh coat of paint. Recently, the interior of the church is slowly being transformed into an open space

for worship and will be used as a meeting place for community groups. Currently, a home school co-op rents the facility two days per week. These have been major accomplishments, yet there is still plenty of work to be done.

This past spring, the core group received evangelism training and has completed extensive planning to define the core values and direction for the gospel ministries in Yakima and Ellensburg. The group members have put their training into action by going door-to-door, introducing themselves, and bringing the gospel message of what Christ has done to people both personally and digitally. People have been directed to their website, hopeinellensburg.com, to receive a message of true hope found only in Christ. In May, the core group was blessed with an adult baptism: the fiancée of one of the members.

This summer, two youth groups from Oconomowoc, Wis., and Fairfax, Minn., are arriving to help lead STEM camps. Andrew and Lauren Lindloff from Fount of Life in Colorado Springs, Colo., arrived in early June to spend four days going door-to-door to proclaim the gospel. Their [WELS Mission Journeys](#) experience was a part of celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary.

We don't know how the Lord will bless these faithful efforts, and although there is hard work that still lies ahead, the core group members have embraced the concept that the Lord blesses gospel activity. While concentrating on making Christ known in the community of Ellensburg and on the campus of Central Washington University, they are "keeping good hope alive" by fully trusting that the power of God's Word is at work whenever the gospel is proclaimed.

It is a great day to be God's messengers. And we ask for your prayers that the Lord bless these efforts to rebuild a gospel presence in central Washington.

Written by Mr. Dave Malnes, Pacific Northwest District Mission Board member

A pastor reflects on his confirmation and the lifelong promise made years ago.

I was confirmed on May 26, 1963. There were six in my class, but I had an advantage over the other five. From kindergarten through seventh grade, I had attended a Lutheran elementary school where Bible lessons and memorization were an everyday part of life.

Then my family moved, and I attended public school for my final catechism year. Because of my Lutheran school background, I already had most of the Bible verses and catechism parts memorized. I was even asked to help others with their memory work.

Finally came confirmation day. Robes. Flowers. The excitement and nervousness of an examination and standing in front of the congregation. My baptism sponsors, grandparents, and my whole family were there. The examination didn't seem hard, even though I think I was asked to answer more than my share of the questions.

The part that made me the most fearful was this question: "Do you intend to continue faithful in your confession of the true God, and to suffer all, even death, rather than turn away from him?" The thought of suffering or even dying for my Lord was petrifying, yet with the other five I answered boldly, "I do so intend with the help of God." I doubt that I understood what a big promise I was making, but I knew it was a serious matter.

Now, 62 years later, on another Sunday in May, I will witness one of my grandsons standing before the altar in front of his family, friends, and congregation. Perhaps he will feel the same nervous excitement I felt. Perhaps he will ponder the same question that I still think about: "Do you intend to continue faithful in your confession of the true God, and to suffer all, even death, rather than turn away from him?" And when he says, "I do so intend with the help of God," I will pray for him: "Lord, keep him faithful to you. Keep him in the true Christian faith until you take him to heaven. And, please, Lord, keep me also in the true faith. Grant us this grace that through the Scriptures and the Lord's Supper we will be kept faithful unto death."

Author: Robert Balza, Sr.

Forward in Christ | May 2025

<u>Serving at Col.:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Music	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Seth, Tony	
Reader	Noah	Elijah
Altar		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments		
Cleaning	Beth, Sarah, Leah, Anna	
Mowing		

CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Jul 13	Council, Ladies Guild Meetings
Jul 20	Q2 Congregational Meeting
Jul 21-25	Camp South, Covington, GA
Jul 28-Aug 2	VBS: Wonder Junction

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget	Projected
Last Week	\$1,715.00	\$2,710.40	63.3%	
June	\$5,232.00	\$11,745.08	44.5%	\$11,342.74
Qtr-to-Date	\$25,344.70	\$35,235.25	71.9%	\$30,818.17
Year-to-Date	\$70,915.77	\$140,941.00	50.3%	\$156,081.65



*"...give what you have decided in your heart
to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*

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CROWN OF LIFE