



**CROWN OF LIFE** | LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

*10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

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*A Service of Worship and Praise*

**-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-**

**OPENING HYMN**

**African-American Heritage Hymnal 567**

*Here I Am, Lord*

*PLEASE STAND*

**Minister says:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation says:** And also with you.

**-Introduction to Worship-**

**M:** God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

**C:** Your mercies are new every morning.

**M:** Guide our steps by the light of your word.

**C:** Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

**M:** Better than life is your love.

**C:** Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

**-We Prepare Our Hearts-**

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C:** Merciful Father in heaven, I know that I have been sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Forgive my sins and change my life.

**We sing:**

*Have Thine Own Way*

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after Thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!  
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always living in me!

**M:** Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C:** Yes, I believe.

**M:** Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, it is my privilege to declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of God. Let's praise His name.

**We sing:**

*No Other Name But the Name of Jesus*

*Chorus:* No other name, but the name of Jesus  
No other name, but the name of the Lord  
No other name but the name of Jesus  
Is worthy of glory, And worthy of honor  
And worthy of power and all praise!

His name is exalted far above the earth;  
His name is high above the heavens.  
His name is exalted far above the earth;  
Give glory and honor and praise unto His name.

*Chorus*

## **-We Pray Together-**

**M:** I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

**C:** My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**M:** He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

**C:** My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**M:** The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.

**C:** The LORD will watch over my coming and going, both now and forevermore. AMEN.

*BE SEATED*

## **-We Listen to God's Word-**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Jeremiah 23:23-29*

<sup>23</sup> "Am I only a God nearby,"  
declares the LORD,  
"and not a God far away?"

<sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places  
so that I cannot see them?"  
declares the LORD.

"Do not I fill heaven and earth?"  
declares the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!'" <sup>26</sup> How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? <sup>27</sup> They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup> "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

*Refrain:* Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way  
Still, You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near  
Please be with me to the end.

*Refrain*

I will not forget Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end.

*Refrain*

**SECOND LESSON**

*Hebrews 12:1-13*

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

<sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

<sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. <sup>13</sup> "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

*PLEASE STAND*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

*Luke 12:49-53*

<sup>49</sup> "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. <sup>52</sup> From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

*BE SEATED*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**African-American Heritage Hymnal 299**

*Blessed Be The Name*

**SERMON**

***Do You Ever Feel Like God Is Far Away?***

*Jeremiah 23:23-29*

*PLEASE STAND*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*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, the 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 396**

*I Surrender All*

**THE SACRAMENT**

**M:** Our Lord 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 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:**

*Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty*

*Refrain:* Blessed be the Lord God Almighty  
who was and is and is to come.  
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty  
Who reigns forevermore.

Father in heaven, how we love you;  
We lift your name in all the earth.  
May Your kingdom be established in our praises,  
as your people declare Your mighty works.

*Refrain*

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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.

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 453**

*Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke*

## **THANKSGIVING HYMN**

*I Exalt Thee*

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord  
I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord.

**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.

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. AMEN.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

## **Christian Worship 469**

*Take My Life and Let It Be*

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## **A new bishop in Tanzania**

*This article originally appeared in the One Africa Team blog. Subscribe to future updates from Africa at [oneafricateam.com](https://oneafricateam.com).*

The apostle Paul once wrote to Timothy, “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work” (1 Timothy 3:1, NKJV). In other translations, the word *bishop* is rendered “overseer.” Regardless of the term used, the role carries the same weight: to care for Christ’s church, to faithfully teach God’s Word, and to lead with humility—much like a father guiding his family. Paul’s words remind us that this is indeed a noble calling.

## **A historic day in Arusha**

On Sunday, June 29, 2025, just outside Arusha, Tanzania, a significant milestone was reached. After 17 years of faithful service, Bishop Baltazar Kaaya (pictured above, right) of the Africa Mission Evangelism Church (AMEC) consecrated Pastor Judah Pallangyo (pictured above, left) as the newly elected bishop. Bishop Pallangyo has long been a dedicated

servant within AMEC, having served both as a pastor and as secretary of theological training.

### **AMEC and WELS: A growing relationship**

In recognition of the growing relationship between WELS and AMEC, Missionary Howard Mohlke was invited to attend the consecration. The relationship between AMEC and WELS began in 2020 through online conversations with Pastor Makundi Davis, leader of the Kilimanjaro District. The following year, WELS Missionary John Hartmann visited Tanzania, marking the beginning of a deeper partnership.

Over the past four years, WELS missionaries and members of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations (CICR) have met regularly with AMEC leaders, pastors, and elders. These meetings have focused on studying Scripture together and exploring whether a shared confession of faith exists—one that could be publicly affirmed through a declaration of fellowship.

### **A pause for reflection**

Originally, it was hoped that a formal declaration of fellowship could be made at the 2025 WELS synod convention. However, as is often the case in ministry, plans can shift. Bishop Pallangyo has requested more time to revisit the statements of faith with AMEC's pastors and elders before moving forward.

While this delay may be disappointing to some, it is also understandable. A new bishop stepping into such a pivotal moment naturally wants to ensure unity and clarity among his church leaders.

### **Looking ahead with hope**

Even now as of this writing, further meetings for study among the pastors and elders of AMEC are scheduled, as well as meetings to discuss the future work of WELS with AMEC. We pray for God's guidance and blessing on these discussions and on the future of AMEC's relationship with WELS. May this new chapter under Bishop Pallangyo's leadership be marked by wisdom, faith, and fruitful collaboration.

*Written by Missionary Howard Mohlke, leader of the [One Africa Team](#).*

| <b><u>Serving at Col.:</u></b> | <b><u>Today</u></b> | <b><u>Next Sunday</u></b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Music                          | Karis, Elijah       | Karis, Elijah             |
| Ushers                         | Lee, Tony           | Seth, Keith               |
| Reader                         | Noah                | Elijah                    |
| Altar                          | Carol               |                           |
| Streaming                      | Noah                | Noah                      |
| Refreshments                   | Karis               | Linda                     |
| Cleaning                       | Barb                | Barb                      |
| Mowing                         | Keith               | Seth                      |

## **CALENDAR**

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 7:00 PM Online Bible Class            |
| Thursday  | 10:00 AM Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS |
| Sunday    | 10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School   |
| Sunday    | 11:00 AM Worship                      |
| Sept 7    | Grandparents Day                      |

| <b>OFFERING</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Budget</b> | <b>%Budget</b> | <b>Projected</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Last Week       | \$6,358.00   | \$2,710.40    | 234.6%         |                  |
| August          | \$9,535.00   | \$11,745.08   | 81.2%          | \$20,695.71      |
| Qtr-to-Date     | \$27,350.55  | \$35,235.25   | 77.6%          | \$55,567.92      |
| Year-to-Date    | \$103,258.57 | \$140,941.00  | 73.3%          | \$165,826.18     |



*"...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*

*in your bank app:*



**zelle**

