



**CROWN OF LIFE** | LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

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## **A Service of Worship and Praise**

### **We Gather in God's Name**

#### **GREETING**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

**Christian Worship 490**

*Love in Christ is Strong and Living*

**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**

*Proverbs 25:6-7a*

- <sup>6</sup> Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,  
and do not claim a place among his great men;  
<sup>7</sup> it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here,"  
than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

### **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**

*James 2:1-13*

**2** My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. <sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. <sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored

the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

<sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

<sup>12</sup> Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, <sup>13</sup> because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

*PLEASE STAND*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

*Luke 14:1, 7-14*

**14** One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: <sup>8</sup> "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. <sup>9</sup> If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. <sup>11</sup> For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the

lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

*BE SEATED*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Christian Worship 497**

*This Is My Will*

### **SERMON**

***Love Your Neighbor As Yourself***

*James 2:1-13*

*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**

*Instrumental*

## 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**

**African-American Heritage Hymnal 341**

*Blest Be The Tie That Binds*

**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**

**Christian Worship 498**

*Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire*

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**Extending beyond clinic walls**

The work of the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) in Malawi extends far beyond the clinic walls of the four villages of Suzi, Mwalaulomwe, Thunga, and Msambo that we serve. While nurses, clinic staff, and volunteers work tirelessly to care for patients during clinic hours, the commitment of the staff doesn't end there—their service continues long after the last patient has been seen.

The Malawi Ministry of Health requires CAMM to regularly submit detailed reports. These reports include the number of patients seen,

ailments treated, and cases referred to government healthcare facilities. This ongoing collaboration ensures transparency and reinforces CAMM's vital role in conducting healthcare in Malawi. For example, the most frequent ailment we saw in April was malaria (1,533 patients) followed by the common cold (1,030 patients). This data is reported on the monthly and annual reports.

All prescriptions, medications, and medical equipment are stored onsite in the clinic's pharmacy in Lilongwe. Once a month, staff conduct a thorough inventory to track what supplies were used and identify any shortages. Violet Chikwatu, nurse in charge, and Lusungu Mwambeye, clinic administrator, play a key role in compiling reports, submitting required documentation, and restocking essential medications. Lusungu often contacts multiple pharmacies to secure necessary stock at the best available prices.

For the Under-Five program, the clinic provides wellness checks and immunizations for all children under five years old. Staff ensure each child's health record is up to date and that vaccines are stored securely and correctly to maintain effectiveness. In April alone, the clinics in Malawi saw more than 4,000 children in the Under-Five program.

We are incredibly grateful for the dedicated staff of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi. Their attention to detail, compassion for every patient, and unwavering commitment to excellence reflect the mission of providing "Christ-centered healthcare that supports the gospel." Their work is a true blessing to the communities we serve.

We thank all of our supporters who help keep our medications and supplies readily available. Whether it's through financial contributions for purchasing prescriptions or sending packages filled with pill bottles, sunscreen, and other essential items—we are truly blessed by your generosity.

If you're interested in supporting CAMM's mission, visit their website at [camm.us](http://camm.us). Your partnership helps us continue providing life-changing, Christ-centered healthcare to those in need.

*Written by Angela Sievert, [Central Africa Medical Mission](#) chair*

## One Latin America Team – Summer 2025 Quarterly Update

### A snapshot of blessings during the past quarter:

- The number of students completing *Academia Cristo's* four WhatsApp self-study courses continues to climb—from the 20s to the 50s, and now into the 70s weekly. These courses are the entry point for all students into the *Academia Cristo*
- New churches were planted in Puente Piedras, Peru; San José de Caaguazú, Paraguay; Concepción del Uruguay, Argentina.
- *Academia Cristo* graduate Dr. Eduardo Milanesi previously started a church plant in Cochabamba that became a member of *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional* (ICWI). He has now launched a second group in Santa Cruz, recently gathering over 30 eager listeners to God's Word.
- Missionary Nixon Vivar onboarded three new instructors: Shawn Marron, a Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary student; Latin America Vicar Matthew Rugen; and Jennifer Proeber, who teaches at Arizona Lutheran Academy. Next quarter, he will help onboard four new instructors: Lester Soto, an *Academia Cristo* graduate from Nicaragua; Zach Satorius, new One Latin America Team missionary; Alex Dimke, a Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary student; and Tim Walsh, a WELS pastor from New York.
- Missionary Abe Degner visited Manglio Dider, his family, and his church plant in Guayaramerín, Bolivia (pictured above). During the visit, a memorial service was held for Manglio's son, giving Missionary Degner the opportunity to share the gospel with over 100 attendees.

### A look ahead

- The One Latin America Team will be onboarding Rev. Zach Satorius as a new missionary. He and his wife, Ava, will be spending one month in Argentina for language training. While there, they will visit church planters with other missionaries.
- Plans are in place to call an additional missionary will be called to serve as a church planting facilitator.
- The team is planning a Spanish Outreach Intensive event to support *Academia Cristo* outreach in the U.S.

<b><u>Serving at Col.:</u></b>	<b><u>Today</u></b>	<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b>
Music	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Lee, Gary	Seth
Reader	Mike	
Altar		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Crown Garden	
Cleaning		
Mowing	David	

## **CALENDAR**

Wednesday	7:00 PM Mid-Week Bible Class <a href="https://meet.google.com/dpk-rmfe-atx">meet.google.com/dpk-rmfe-atx</a>
Thursday	10:30 AM, Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS
Thursday	12:00 PM, Confirmation Class, Picayune, MS
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship

# **Mid-Week Bible Class**

Wednesdays at 7 PM

[Google Meet](#)

<b>OFFERING</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>%Budget</b>	<b>Projected</b>
Last Week	\$3,610.00	\$2,710.40	133.2%	
August	\$17,709.50	\$11,745.08	150.8%	\$17,709.50
Qtr-to-Date	\$35,597.05	\$35,235.25	101.0%	\$52,543.49
Year-to-Date	\$111,505.07	\$140,941.00	79.1%	\$166,576.72

in your bank app:



*"...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*



**zelle**



**CROWN OF LIFE**