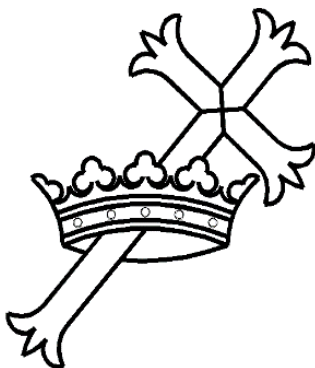


Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483

The Rev. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor
A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!
In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 14, 2025

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

PRELUDE

OUR ACCOMPANIST MRS. YVONNE YOST

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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 us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

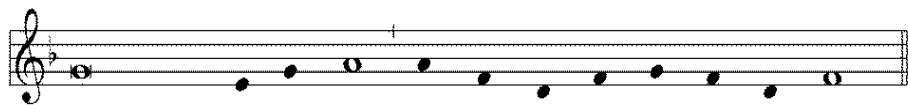
* OPENING HYMN *“Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing ”* LBW 499

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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: "*Glory to God*"



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

*SALUTATION



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34: 11-24 (ESV)

¹¹ “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. ¹⁷ “As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸ Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹ And must my sheep eat what you have trodden

with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?
²⁰ “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²² I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³ And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 119: 169-176 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, O LORD;

give me understanding according to your word!

¹⁷⁰ **Let my plea come before you;**

deliver me according to your word.

¹⁷¹ My lips will pour forth praise,

for you teach me your statutes.

¹⁷² **My tongue will sing of your word,**

for all your commandments are right.

¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to help me,

for I have chosen your precepts.

¹⁷⁴ **I long for your salvation, O LORD,**

and your law is my delight.

¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live and praise you,

and let your rules help me.

¹⁷⁶ **I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,**

for I do not forget your commandments.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1: 5-17 (ESV)

⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about

which they make confident assertions.⁸ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,¹¹ in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God for the people of God!

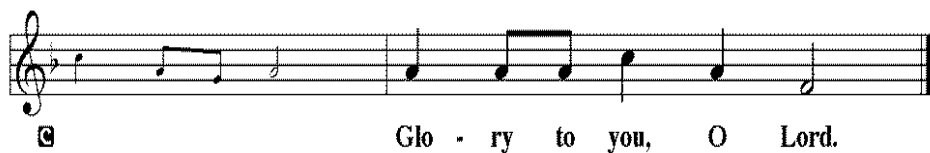
C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. Luke 15: 1-10 (ESV)**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”³ So he told them this parable: ⁴“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON *“Lost or Found?”* Pastor Marty Ramey

*SERMON HYMN *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* LBW 526

*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

*RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY



2 Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -



it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the



joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

***BENEDICTION**

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

***SENDING HYMN “How Great Thou Art” LBW 532**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mary Thomas by Larry Barbee and family.

The **PBnJ** youth will meet this afternoon at 3:30 PM.

It's Fall Car Show planning time for the **Sept 20th** event. Please consider volunteering or sponsoring a trophy. Please see Earlene Cox if you have any questions.

Homecoming will be Sunday, September 28th! Postcards have been placed in each member's mailbox—please send one to someone you'd like to invite. We also ask each member to bring a dessert to share at lunch. Thank you!

SHARING SHEPHERDS Brochures and sign-up for the West Virginia Mission are in the mailroom at the front of the church. Assignment and details on the children being provided for will be forthcoming in September. We will collect all gifts in mid-November and travel to West Virginia on Saturday, December 13th, to deliver the gifts and cards to the families. Please give prayerful consideration to helping provide for the least of these, those in great need in an impoverished area of our country. Pastor Marty will be happy to address any questions or concerns you may have: (704) 689-8501.



September 14, 2025

We ask that you always have an individual's permission before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List.

Please send prayer list request additions or changes to prayercccl@gmail.com by Tuesday 5PM.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people... 1Timothy 2:1

In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ

Family of Frank Kluttz

Tim Aldridge; Wayne Furr; Chris Goodman; Dorothy Goodman;

Harry Goodman; Norman Goodman; John Trull; Linda Trull.

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3)

Prospective pastors see our profile/video and consider a call here.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Pastor Charles Barrier; Deena Bost; Pastor Gene Bost; LeaAnn

Buckwell; Pastor Randall Cauble; Pastor Tom Corbell; Luke Cranford;

Vicky Floyd (Friend of Linda Horton – Pulmonary hypertension and a few other diagnosis); David Gandy; Marty Gandy; David Goforth; Lee Goforth;

Barbara Hamilton; Annette Heller; Candice Horton; Greg Houston;

Sally Justice; Melissa Krumbien; Gerry Litzinger; Susie Moore; Karen Morgan;

Hank Morris; Kelly Odell (Daughter of Betty Archer – Surgery on 9/5/25

recovery); Daniel Pless; Lettie Reid; Blake Rogers; Jacob Rodgers;

Nick Smith; Susan Starling; Veronica Williams; Candace Yates;

Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

Praise List:

* David Goforth (friend of Carl Pless) – David Goforth thanks everyone for their prayers concerning the lengthy surgery to remove one kidney and the main vein leaving it as well as removal of several blood clots. He is very weak but is able to stand with assistance. He hopes to be able to leave the hospital later this week. He requests prayers for healing and recovery.

**** Please remember our shut-ins with a visit, phone call, card, or email along with your prayers**

Today September 14, 2025

Executive Council Meeting	8:30 AM
Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Holy Communion Service	10:00 AM
Council Meeting	11:00 AM

This Week

MON: 7 – 8:30 PM Soldiers of the Cross of Christ Practice

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM Family Worship Service

Next Sunday's Readings

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8: 4-7
Psalm 113: 1-9
1 Timothy 2: 1-15
St Luke 16: 1-15

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