

~Congregational Announcements~

«**Sunday School starts at 9am**

« **Today from 11-12:30 Spaghetti Lunch at Shakespeare Center All are Welcome! Free Will offering!**

« **Hobo Stew Harvest Potluck Oct 25th, please bring a dish to share following church service**

«**confirmation class is Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30pm**

«**Bible Study is at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning starting Topic: Lutheran faith**

«**Lutheran church Woman will meet Oct 20th at 2:00 pm! All ladies are welcome to join!**

« **October outreach: Winter Coats for the Elementary**

« **Please pick up a Sept/ Oct Newsletter! Located on the table in the back**

« **Pastor Zenk Contact Info:** Cell 217-440-3970; Email address: alexzenk86@gmail.com | Podcast: [Undying Light](#)

*****ATTENTION: We will updating our online giving to a new system, Subsplash. <https://subsplash.com/u/->**



Remember in Prayer

For healing: Morgan Jensen, Christa Carlson, Tim Bergman, Larry Runyan, Nancy Neese, Lon Neese, Geri Harris, Kim Leeds, Rodney Patterson, Louise Bergman, Dan Turner, Mike Roosa, Beth Ashman, Jeremy Dodson, Angie Goings and Vicky Dally

Attendance: 10/4-

***Weekly budget need: \$2,086**

Offering dated 10/04/26

General Undesignated	\$2047.00
General Missions.	00.00
Building	00.00
Memorial	00.00
Online.	470.00

Total. \$2517.00

Stratford Evangelical Lutheran Church

FB: Stratford Ev Lutheran LCMC & YouTube: Stratford Evangelical

The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

Pastor: Alex Zenk **Musician:** Digital LBW **Reader:** Liam Larson

Ushers: Curtis Johnson & Family **Video:** Dave E

please stand when indicated by * (page #'s refer to LBW)

Prelude & Silent Prayer

Ringling of the Bell % Welcome & 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, though 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 is kept for reflection and meditation.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are slaves 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. On account of your great mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ, we pray that you would free us from ourselves, so that we may trust in your promise and obey your commandments, 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:#315 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

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.

Prayer of Day: Bountiful God, you set a table before us and nourish us with the bread of life, your Son, Jesus. Send us out with joyful thanksgiving to share this bread of life with others. Keep us in your grace until we feast at last at the banquet that is to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Amen.

(you may be seated)

& **Reading: Philippians 4:4-13**

& **Responsive Reading: Psalm 23** (see insert)

P: The Holy Gospel according to **the Apostle Matthew the 22nd chapter vs 1-14**

Congregation Speaks response. P.83

C: Glory to You, O’ Lord

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O’ Christ

~Children’s Sermon~

Sermon: “The Invitation” Pastor Alex Zenk

* Apostles’ Creed (please **RISE**) p. 85
(congregation)

C: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

(usher presents the offering to the altar)

* **Offering:** Doxology: **Hymn #565**

**C: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

* **Prayers of the Church** (*respond: “hear our prayer”*)

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

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

C: And also with you.

* The Lord’s Prayer (*congregation*)

C: 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 & Amen

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. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn #385 “What Wondrous Love is This”

P: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

**& Responsive Reading &
Psalm 23**

L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

L: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence

of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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