

## ~Congregational Announcements~

«Sunday school resumes September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am!

«Parents please meet with Pastor after church on Aug 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss the coming year of confirmation

«Bible Study resumes at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning! Topic: History of Israel

«Lutheran church Woman will meet Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm! All are welcome to join!

« August Mission: Stratford School Supplies

« Please pick up a July/ Aug Newsletter! Located on the table in the back

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

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



### Remember in Prayer

For healing: Larry Runyan, Pat Cahill, Nancy Neese, Lon Neese, Kyle Leeds, Lila Berglund, Geri Harris, Kim Leeds, Rodney Patterson, Louise Bergman, Dan Turner, Beth Ashman, Brian Bergman, Jeremy Dodson, Deb Flowers, Angie Goings, Chris Bauer

**Attendance: Sun, 8/17- 54**

Offering dated 08/17/25

General Undesignated.	1455.00
General Designated Mission.	00.00
General Designated Paving	2695.00
Building	00.00
Memorial	00.00
Online Giving	101.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4251.00</b>

## Stratford Evangelical Lutheran Church

FB: Stratford Ev Lutheran LCMC & YouTube: Stratford Evangelical

### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

**Pastor:** Alex Zenk **Musician:** Digital LBW **Reader:** Hannah Stuck

**Ushers:** Dan Larson & The Jensen Family **Video:** Dave E

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

Prelude & Silent Prayer

Ring 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:# 543 “ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

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: Mighty God, your Son, Jesus, is the way, the truth, and the life. Sanctify us by your Holy Spirit that our lives may be pleasing to you and we may enter through the narrow door. Grant us the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

**(you may be seated)**

& **Reading: Hebrews 12: 4-24 (25-29)**

& **Responsive Reading: Psalm 50** (see insert)

P: The Holy Gospel according to **the Apostle Luke the 13th chapter**

**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 Narrow Gate”** 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 (please rise)

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 #25 “ Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

P: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **& Responsive Reading & Psalm 50**

L: The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from  
The rising of the sun to its setting.

**C: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

L: Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring  
fire, around him a mighty tempest.

**C: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge  
his people:**

L: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by  
sacrifice!”

**C: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!**

L: “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against  
you. I am God, your God.

**C: Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are  
continually before me.**

L: I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.

**C: For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand  
hills.**

L: I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

**C: “If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its  
fullness are mine.**

L: Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

**C: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows  
to the Most High,**

L: and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and  
you shall glorify me.”

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