



NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE

"Which of these three do you think
was a neighbor to the man who
fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied,
"The one who had mercy on him."



Luke 10:36-37



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Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Office: 805-937-0339
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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, July 13, 2025 10:00 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Faith in Christ frees us from sin's curse and its control. It frees us from the law and makes us bear spiritual fruit naturally. It frees us from focusing only on ourselves so that we now can and want to serve our neighbors as Christ himself would serve them.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 736 “Lord, You Call Us as Your People”
(alternate melody)

♪ **Lord, you call us as your people, out of darkness into light.
You created and redeemed us, made us precious in your sight.
Give us faith to trust you boldly and to love you steadfastly.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.**

**Lord, you call us as disciples, walking on your pilgrim way.
Crucified and risen Savior, you are with us ev’ry day.
Give us wisdom, give us courage as you teach us patiently.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.**

**Lord, you send us to the harvest
in your Great Commission’s call,
reaching out to all the nations, bringing life and hope to all.
Give us boldness and compassion,
bless us with your eyes to see.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.**

**Lord, you call us to new ventures by a pathway yet unknown.
Though we cannot see the ending, we will follow you alone.
Knowing that your hand is guiding and you love us faithfully,
by your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.**

Please stand for last verse:

**Lord, you call us as your people,
now in faith we sing your praise,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, alleluias to you raise.
Hold us in your gracious power, blessed Holy Trinity,
that rejoicing we will ever faithful to our callings be.**

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

Congregation: **And also with you.** *(spoken)*

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 con-
fess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether 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: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen. *Please be seated.*

FIRST LESSON: Galatians 5:1,13-25

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again.

¹³After all, brothers, you were called to freedom. Only do not use your freedom as a starting point for your sinful flesh. Rather, serve one another through love. ¹⁴In fact, the whole law is summed up in this one statement: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶What I am saying is this: Walk by the spirit, and you will not carry out what the sinful flesh desires. ¹⁷For the sinful flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful flesh. In fact, these two continually oppose one another, so that you do not continue to do these things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the spirit, you are not under the control of the law.

¹⁹Now the works of the sinful flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, complete lack of restraint, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, discord, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things similar to these. I warn you, just as I also warned you before, that those who continue to do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the spirit, let us also walk in step with it.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 25



To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;*
in you I trust, O my God.

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,*
for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;*
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD.

Refrain

Turn to me and be gracious to me,*
for I am lonely and afflicted.

Look upon my affliction and my distress*
and take away all my sins.

Guard my life and rescue me,*
for I take refuge in you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain*

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another. Alleluia! (*1 John 4:11*)

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 10:25-37

²⁵Just then, an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus, saying,
“Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶“What is written in the law?” he asked him. “What do you
read there?”

²⁷He replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with
all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and,
love your neighbor as yourself.”

²⁸He said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this, and
you will live.”

²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who
is my neighbor?”

³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jer-
icho. He fell among robbers who stripped him, beat him, and went
away, leaving him half dead. ³¹It just so happened that a priest was
going down that way. But when he saw the man, he passed by on
the other side. ³²In the same way, a Levite also happened to go
there, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³³A
Samaritan, as he traveled, came to where the man was. When he
saw him, he felt sorry for the man. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged
his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He put him on his own
animal, took him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day,
when he left, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper,
and said, ‘Take care of him. Whatever extra you spend, I will re-
pay you when I return.’ ³⁶Which of these three do you think acted
like a neighbor to the man who fell among robbers?”

³⁷“The one who showed mercy to him,” he replied.

Then Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

HYMN: # 726 “Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”

♪ Love in Christ is strong and living,
binding faithful hearts in one;
love in Christ is true and giving,
may his will in us be done.

**Love is patient and forbearing,
clothed in Christ's humility,
gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ abides forever,
fainting not when ills attend;
love, forgiving and forgiven,
shall endure until life's end.**

SERMON: Ruth 1:1-19a

During the days of the judges, a famine occurred in the land. So a man left Bethlehem in Judah to stay awhile in the territory of Moab—he, his wife, and his two sons. ²The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were from the clan of Ephrath from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the territory of Moab and remained there.

³But Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, so she was left with her two sons. ⁴They then married Moabite wives. The name of the first was Orpah, and the name of the second was Ruth. They lived there for about ten years. ⁵But Naomi's sons, Mahlon and Kilion, also died. So the woman was left without her two children and without her husband.

⁶Then Naomi set out with her daughters-in-law to return from the territory of Moab, because while she was in the territory of Moab, she had heard that the LORD had graciously visited his people by providing them with food. ⁷So she left the place where she had been, and her two daughters-in-law left with her. They set out on the road to return to the land of Judah.

⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back. Both of you return to your mother's house. May the LORD show you kindness as you have shown kindness to the dead and to me. ⁹May the LORD grant that each of you finds security in the house of a husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept loudly.

¹⁰But they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

¹¹Then Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why should you go with me?"

Am I going to give birth to any more sons who could become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters. Go! For I am too old to be married to another husband. Suppose I say, ‘I have hope, and I will be married to another husband tonight, and I will even give birth to sons.’ ¹³Would you wait for them until they grow up? On the basis of that hope would you give up the chance to marry another husband? No, my daughters. It is much more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has reached out against me.”

¹⁴They once again wept loudly. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth would not let her go.

¹⁵Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and to her gods. Go back! Follow your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to abandon you or to turn back from following you. Because wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you make your home, I will make my home. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely and double it if anything but death separates me from you.”

¹⁸When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹Then the two of them traveled until they arrived at Bethlehem.

Please stand.

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;

**the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN: # 506 “For the Fruits of His Creation”

♪ **For the fruits of his creation, thanks be to God.
For his gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

**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 look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.**

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: # 697 “May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

♪ **May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill
and do on earth our Father’s will
as angels do above;
still walk in Christ, the living way,
with all your children, and obey
the law of Christian love.**

**So may we join your name to bless,
your grace adore, your power confess,
to flee from sin and strife.
One is our calling, one our name,
the end of all our hopes the same:
a glorious crown of life.**

**Spirit of life, of love, and peace,
unite our hearts, our joy increase,
your gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
in Christian fellowship to live,
in joyful hope to die.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Claire Oberg, Rev. Bobby Oberg, and Delores Bass.

“Hi, We’re Your Neighbors at Star”- Big, promotional, fun fellowship, outreach day at Waller Park, Saturday, August 23rd. Sign up lists are in the narthex.

STAR CHURCH DIRECTORY: Please update your personal information as it changes (online or blue sheets in narthex).

To view and use the directory online, go to:

members.instantchurchdirectory.com

Follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.”

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*** You will need to use your e-mail address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday NO ESL

Thursday NO Bible Class

NO ESL

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

COMING UP

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK, August 10th,
after service

AREA REFORMATION SERVICE, October 26th, 4:00 p.m.

It is Star of Bethlehem’s turn to provide the luncheon.

www.starlutheran.org