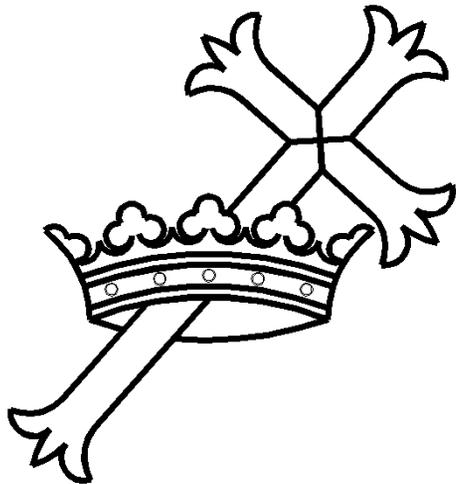


Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

NALC

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
 Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445
 Parsonage 704-786-3643

The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor



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

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2020

PRELUDE

MRS. YVONNE YOST

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
 fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to his
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men Sound from his

tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 need - ful has been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 might - y can do If with his love he be - friend you.
 peo - ple a - gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God,

we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: ROMANS 14: 1-12 (ESV)

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables.³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Here ends the reading.

* The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 18: 21-35 (ESV)

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times." ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants." ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all

his debt.³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN (TURN THE PAGE)

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

MRS. YVONNE YOST

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Monty Cauthen and honor of Scott Barringers birthday on the 15th by his family.

The **PBJ** and **CSI** youth will both meet today **at 3:30** under the shelter.

The **Outreach Committee** is having a mini drive for Mt. Pleasant Food Ministry thru the month of September. **They are still in need of these items:** salt, pepper, ketchup, mustard, salad dressings (ranch, 1000 island, honey mustard, etc), cooking oil, cake mixes and icings, cooking spices (Italian seasoning, garlic salt, onion powder, cinnamon, paprika, chili powder), Duke and Hellman mayonnaise. Thank you so much for thinking of others during this time. Please place in the boxes like before.

CORRECTION: Food donations were for July 243 lbs, Aug 257 lbs a total of 500 lbs. by our congregation. 101 lbs were purchased with funds donated by Carolinas Mission Region of the NALC with Mission Stimulus Funds making the total 601 lbs. donated to Mt. Pleasant Food Ministry.

A **Women's retreat** is in the planning stage for **Oct 2 – 4**, please let Kristi know if you are interested.

Notes from September Council Meeting (held Sunday, August 30)

* Council received an interim **Treasurer's Report**. (As we met on August 30 final figures will be forthcoming once end-of-month is finalized.) Earlene reported that we only need about **\$1500** to pay off the Parish Hall debt. Council is asking that we set a goal to **pay this off** by the next payment date: **Wednesday, September 23.**

* The **Financial Oversight Committee** is completing the mid-year audit and is providing information to the **Finance Committee** for budget preparation. A proposed budget will be presented to the Council for consideration at the October meeting.

* Pastor attended the online **2020 NALC Convocation, 2020 Carolinas Mission Region Convocation**, and a related meeting of the **Piedmont-East Mission District** during the weeks of August 3 and August 10. Reports were given to the Council with the main item being the decision that the NALC will move from annual to bi-annual convocations.

* Richard Strube and Sharon Duncan will be joining the four off-going Council members as this year's **Nominating Committee**. James Bailey will chair the committee. A Nominating Committee report will be received by Council for consideration at the October meeting.

* A **Facilities Improvement Task Force** was authorized. This Task Force will work to gather information, quotes, etc. regarding several outstanding and proposed improvement projects needed for our church facilities. The Task Force will make periodic informational reports and recommendations to the Council. Off-going President, Scott Barringer, off-going Vice-President, James Bailey, former President, Rusty Drye, Treasurer, Earlene Cox, and Pastor will be serving on the task force.

* Due to current health requirements a 2-part **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held this November with identical presentations given at the 10:00 & 11:00AM services. Voting tabulations will be finalized following the 11AM session. The Executive Committee will be meeting in the near future to iron-out the logistics.

* A **Women's Retreat** was endorsed by Council to be held in October at Teen Valley Ranch. A motion was also approved to provide \$100 per participant from the Education Endowment Fund.

* A **3rd Saturday Breakfast** will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, September 19 from 7:00 – 11:00AM. NC Phase 2 COVID requirements for restaurants will be followed including limited capacity and social distancing. All food will be served in take-away boxes. Funds received will go towards Parish Hall Debt/Facilities Improvement.

501 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!

1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
 2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, Some-times where E-den's bow-ers bloom,
 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, Nor ev - er mur-mur nor re - pine;
 4 And when my task on earth is done, When by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,

What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 By wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, Still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 Con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, Since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
 E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead-eth me, he lead - eth me, By his own hand he lead-eth me.

His faith - ful fol-l'wer I would be, For by his hand he lead - eth me.



September 13, 2020

A little reminder about our prayer list.

We ask that you always have an individual's permission before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List. Contact Pastor Allison or Prayer List Coordinator Belinda Campbell to request additions or changes.

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

In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ

Kay Barbee; Scott Barringer; Megan Blackburn; Stephanie Blackburn;
 Chris Bost; Robin Drye; Coy Edgison; John Faggart; Geneva Gray;
 Frank Kluttz; Sylvia Loggans; Rina Moss; Frances Pless; Marie Pless;
 Dot Weast (Recovering from a broken arm and fractured knee).

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison; Will Drye

Friends of Cross of Christ

Sherry Baker (Sister of Richard Strube, Breast Cancer diagnosis);
 Kelly Caudle (Recovering from a fall that fractured his upper arm, injured the C4 vertebra, and caused a concussion); Steve & Angie Dixon; JB Faggart; Ralph Furr;
 Marty Gandy; Dave Goff (Friend of Carl Pless, Jr.);
 Tommy and Eva Harrel; Ivory Holland;
 Ensley Morgan (Recovery from Brain surgery on 8/26/2020 at Duke Hospital);
 Daniel Neubacher (Son-in-Law of Pastor Jeff Faggart – Recovering from a broken neck (3 months in a neck brace) and skin abrasions received in a motorcycle accident); Diane Parker; Bob Seagraves;
 Beverly and Lewis Williams; Pat Winecoff.

General Prayer Concerns

Our nation, Our community and Our Church
 School Students of all ages, Teachers, School Personnel and Parents
 as you navigate the new school year

Cross of Christ Shut-Ins

Mildred Watson

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

