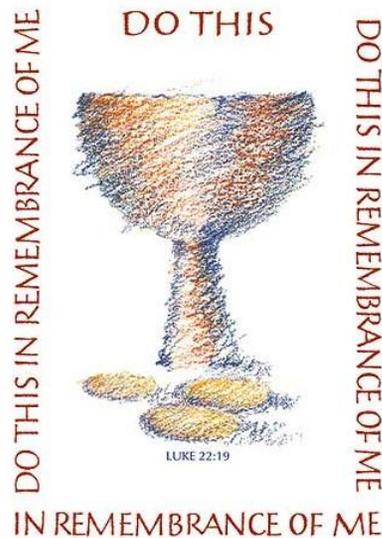


Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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 5, 2021

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

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

* OPENING HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

LBW 479

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God"

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
I Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
II 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.

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
I 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.
C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35: 4-10 (ESV)

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 146

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

¹Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

²**I will praise the LORD all my life;**

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴**When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

⁵Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

⁶**He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.**

⁷He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,

⁸**the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD.**

SECOND READING: JAMES 2: 1-10, 14-18 (ESV)

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ²Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? ⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 7: 31-37 (ESV)

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. ³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN

"Built On A Rock"

LBW 365

*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**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
 that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
 and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us--
ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.**

**Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

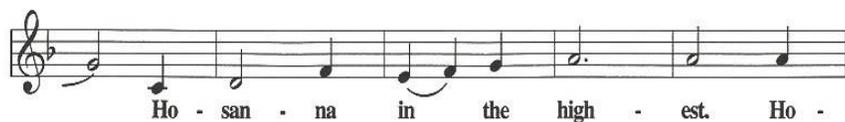
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:



***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***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**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

WOV 709 & 740

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thank the Lord"

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
 and lead us forth in joy with shouts
 of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*BENEDICTION

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. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

"I Love To Tell The Story"

LBW 390

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Samantha Strube and Nathan Bojko's 1st wedding anniversary by Richard and Jodie Strube.

The **Piano Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Yvonne Yost by Norman Goodman.

Blood Drive with One Blood. Next Sunday, **September 12**, has been **CANCELLED** due to covid and staffing issues. Rescheduled date will be announced soon.

Along with our monthly **Country Breakfast** on **September 18, 2021**, we plan to have a **CAR SHOW**. We will have our normal delicious breakfast from 7 – 10 a.m. and lunch from 11 am – 1 p.m. Lunch will be Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers and Hot Dogs with all the trimmings, with tea and desserts. We need your help for desserts. Please consider making a dessert. You can make them now and freeze them for next month. There will be a sign-up sheet on the board in the mailroom. Most of all, we need your participation. Come out and enjoy some delicious food and while you are there, browse some old, new, classic cars, trucks and hopefully some motorcycles. This will be a fund raiser for the Facilities Improvement Fund. Thank you, in advance, for your help.

Ladies Retreat - October 1st - 3rd. If you have not already let Kristi know that you would like to attend and paid your \$50 deposit, please let her know by **NEXT, September 12th** with deposit.



September 5, 2021

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... 1Timothy 2:1

In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ

Kay Barbee; John Faggart; Candice Horton; Frances Kanipe;
Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Kristi Leonard;
Marie Pless (Lymphoma in the lower colon – Doctors working on care plan);
John Trull

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan); Will Drye

Friends of Cross of Christ

Jack Archer (Father-in-law of Betty Odell Archer) Steve Cagle;
Shelby Childress (Mother of Billie Barrier – she took a fall and is being treated at Pruitt Health); Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Sheila Freeman (COVID positive, Upcoming gallbladder surgery and awaiting tests for mass on pancreas); Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Dave Goff; Tommy and Eva Harrel;
Ivory Holland; AJ Jorsey; Ole Moe; Ensley Morgan; Diane Parker;
Beverly and Lewis Williams.

General Prayer Concerns

Prayers for those in our County recovering from COVID.

Cross of Christ Shut-Ins

Sylvia Loggans (Five Oaks, Room # 301)

Praise List

- Steve Cooke – (Marilyn Barrier's Brother) – he is doing much better.
- Bobby Morton – (Friend of Larry Barbee) – he is doing much better.

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

Today – September 5, 2021

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

THIS WEEK

MON: 7:00 PM Soldiers of the
Cross of Christ Practice

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM	Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM	Family Worship Service
	One Blood Drive <u>CANCELLED</u>

Next Sunday's Readings

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Isaiah 50: 4-10
 Psalm 116: 1-9
 James 3: 1-12
 St. Mark 9: 14-29

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 ClericalTeam@Gmail.com

