

Christ Lutheran Church
1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, MD. 21502-7519
Telephone 301-729-1010
Website: CLCLaVale.org
E-Mail: christlutheran@atlanticbbn.net
Mission Statement – “*Loving God, Loving People*”

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

THE WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:00 AM In-Person & Zoom

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

WELCOME

Announcements

Prelude

*** A Call to Worship**

P: All creation sings this day –

C: Waves resound in praise;

P: Trees sway with joy;

C: Flowers bloom with laughter.

P: All creation shouts for joy,

C: For families and friends are gathering,

P: Hearts are saying “yes” to God,

C: And the community of faith is expanding its circle.

P: All creation rejoices –

C: Sun glows with heavenly light;

P: Wind whispers prayers of thanks;

C: Earth warms to bring forth spring delights,

P: And we join the chorus of saints and stars in praising God.

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

* **Gathering Hymn 1063 ACS**

"God of the Fertile Fields"

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per ing of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread; forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bus ed,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

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* Greeting

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.

Kyrie

(Setting 7 – Page 175)

5 175



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .

so - tros. mer - cy. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on

dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .

so - tros. mer - cy. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -
Christ, . . have mer - cy on

dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.

Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .

so - tros,
mer - cy.

Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on

dad;
us;

ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

* Gloria

(Setting 7 – Page 176)

S 176

¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!

¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!

Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

* Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Lesson: *Isaiah 55:10-13*

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalms 65:1-13*

¹ You are to be praised, O ¹ God, in Zion;
to you shall vows ¹ be fulfilled.
² **To you, the one ¹ who answers prayer,**
to you all ¹ flesh shall come.

- ³ Our sins are strong- | er than we are,
but you blot out | our transgressions.
- ⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell
there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the
holiness | of your temple.**
- ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our
salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far
away.
- ⁶ **You make firm the mountains | by your power;
you are girded a- | bout with might.**
- ⁷ You still the roaring | of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.
- ⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at
your | marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing
for joy.**
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is | full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you
provide | for the earth.
- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak
them- | selves with grain; let them shout for | joy and sing.

Second Lesson: *Romans 8:1-11*

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Acclamation

(Setting 7 – Page 179)

The musical score is written for four staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first three staves have a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The fourth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: 'A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. The score includes a rehearsal mark 'S 179a' at the end of the first staff.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Swanson

Hymn 680

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

* Apostles’ Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

The Prayer of the Church

* Sharing of the Peace of the Lord

We Offer Our Gifts to the Lord
Anthem

Organ Voluntary

* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* The Offertory

Hymn

“Bring a Gift of Love”--Mary Kay Bottens

Bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love today.

Bring an offering to our Lord and King, tell the world he is the Way!"

Bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love today.

In this quiet hour of worship, bring a gift of love.

* Offertory Prayer

L: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed rightand join their unending hymn:

* (Holy, Holy Holy)

(Setting 7 – Page 181)

5 181

San - to, Ho - ly, Dios del u - ni - ver - so; God of might and pow - er; San - to, es el Se - ñor, ho - ly is the Lord, San - to, Ho - ly, Dios del u - ni - ver - so; God of might and pow - er; Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, Ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor, Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, Ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.

* The Words of Institution

* 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.

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

(Setting 7 – Page 182)

S 182

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da - nos tu paz, grant us your peace.

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymn 512

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

* Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

C: Amen.

* The Prayer after Communion

L: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

* **Sending Hymn 547**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

* Dismissal

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

* Postlude

In Bread and Wine our Lord Jesus meets us and we receive His Body and Blood given and shed for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love, forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us today and are a baptized Christian and desire to commune, please do come to the table of the Lord. Children and youth who have not received instruction in the meaning of the Sacrament are cordially invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please come toward as directed by ushers by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

Lectors for our Services

This Sunday, July 12 – Jack Murray

This Wednesday, July 15 – Jeff Smith

Next Sunday, July 19 – Gary Llewellyn

Next Wednesday, July 22 – Debbie Fornwalt

Ushers – Sally Buser, Jim Smith

Organist – Lea Ann Alter

We have a hearing assistance system in the sanctuary. If you are having problems hearing our service, please ask the usher for a receiver.

Hope that you have picked up your name tags from the board in the main entrance. They are in alphabetical order. Please return to the board when leaving. Thanks

A sign-up for after church snacks is in the narthex. Please pick a Sunday to share your goodies! Store bought is just fine if you need easy! Thanks.

The Bulletins have been given to the glory of God in memory of my mother, Emma Meese by Shirley & Jim Smith.

The Communion bread and Wine have been given to the glory of God in memory of my daughter, Jean Marie Voss by Joyce DeMonbrun.

The July's Newsletter has been given to the glory of God in honor of Gary & Val Llewellyn's Wedding Anniversary.

This week –

This Sunday – July 12, Worship – 10:00am followed by Exploring the Labyrinth at 11:30
Sponsored by Mission & Generosity

Monday – REACH Meal Committee – 4:30pm

Wednesday – Worship – 6:30pm

Thursday – Bible Study – 10:30am

Red Cross Blood Drive – 12:30-6:00pm

Friday – REACH Meal prep – 9:00am

Diane's Music class – 10:00am, Lady Birds – 11:00am

Saturday – REACH Meal prep and serving – 2-4:00pm

Next Sunday, July 19, Worship – 10:00am followed by Adult SCS – 11:30pm

"Summertime means kids are out of school and families are in need more than ever! As you're shopping, **please grab a few extra items for the LaVale Food Pantry.** Frequently needed items are saltine crackers, boxes of pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal and shelf-stable milk. Thanks for your continued generosity!"

Exploring the Labyrinth – the Mission and Generosity Committee has rescheduled the **Listening Circle** that will introduce and **explore our labyrinth TODAY, July 12th after morning service.** We will gather around the labyrinth and learn about it history and uses. Then those who are interested will be able to walk the labyrinth followed by the sharing of thoughts and feelings about the process. Please join us for this spiritual journey!

Remember our church Yard Sale. We will start setting up July 20 (sales on July 24 & 25) then probably for the next two weeks. **We need stuff!!!! You may start to bring your items in next Sunday, July 19. Please put in the fellowship hall or by the side entrance. We also need workers!!** If you or your friends enjoy Yard Sales, please come help. See Shirley.

Our Worship & Music Committee would like to buy copies of our new hymnal – All Creation Sings (Supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship) to be available in our pews. If you are interested in helping to purchase these hymnals, please write on a piece of paper or envelope the number that you are purchasing and how you want the honor/memory to read and enclosed with your check (payable to CLC). **The cost is \$15.00 per hymnal.** You may put this in the offering plate or bring to the church office. For more information, please see Pastor Daniel or a member of the Worship & Music

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – July 5, 2026

Attendance	In-Person 10:00am =	50	Adult SCS =	7
	Zoom 10:00am =	6		
Wed. July 8	In Person 6:30pm =	9		
	Zoom =	3		

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2026

Received	=	\$3,068.80
Needed weekly =		<u>4,265.56</u>
		(\$ 1,196.76)

BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-JUNE 2026

Actual Income =	\$100,470.02
Actual Expenses =	<u>(114,215.14)</u>
	(\$13,745.12)

If you wish to contribute a little extra to our budget line, please consider signing up for our Bulletin, Communion Bread & Wine or Newsletter sponsorships. We still have many weeks available. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember that special someone in your life.

The Labyrinth is where you go to nourish your inner gardens:



...it meets you where you are.....

...it is a safe non-judgmental space.....

...to listen to a longing to find a way to help our world (community, church, family, self) to be a peaceful, caring, and healing place.....

...listen, feel, to all experience, even mundane, to what emerges to you in the moment

...wandering the labyrinth cleans the mirror of the soul, deepens our awareness, and is an opportunity for healing...

There is no right way or wrong way to walk the labyrinth. Perhaps, the four R's are a helpful guide to start:

1. *Remembering*, that you are blessed. All that we have, all that we are is a blessing from God.
2. *Releasing*, letting go, quieting, opening, emptying, or shedding. This begins at the entrance and ends at the Center.
3. *Receiving*. Having emptied there is spaciousness within to receive the creative spirit. Receiving guidance, interior silence, a creative idea, a sense of peace, are only a few experiences that can occur on a labyrinth walk. You can stay in the center as long as you want.
4. *Resolving*. This begins when you leave the Center and return on the same path back out of the labyrinth.
There are many aspects of this: you can resolve to take the next step in your life, or come to a resolution about something bothering you. Or, on your way out you reclaim those responsibilities that you set down on the way in, but you have new strength carry them. Often a feeling of strengthening and integration occurs.
Symbolically you back out into the world what you have received during your meditative walk.

Christ Lutheran Church in LaVale, MD

{Summer Indoor}



* * *Great bargain prices...You can shop till you drop* * *

When: July 24 & 25, 2026 from 8:00am – 2:00pm

and

July 31 & August 1, 2026 from 8:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Christ Lutheran Church
1222 Vocke Road
LaVale, MD 21502

*Lots of household items to buy such as books, clothing, furniture,
home décor, toys and more...*

PRAYER LIST FOR JULY 12, 2026

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

Barb & James Simmons
Doris Baker
Jeff Smith
Finn Stewart
Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
Bill & MarySue Crawford
Ruth Chiarenza
Pam Mulligan
Terri McCagh
Patty Wilson
Jane Miller
Jack Zealand
Sharon Diehl
Anna Bruck
Ed Havens
Gail Dawson
Clem Dawson
Dave & Lisa Ahern
Kim Shoemaker
Fay Crawford
David LaBuda
Rosey & Becky McIntyre
Jonathan and Danielle Ahern
Tammy Faulkner
Pam & Dave Judy
David Tibbetts
Joyce DeMonbrun
Kathy Powell
Sharon McKenzie
Nancy & George Small

PRAYER RECIPIENT

Brad & Gregg Dawson, Stephen Overtoom	<i>Requested by</i> Gail Dawson
Barbara Williams	Sharon M
Joe Kunsman, Linda Nines, Ellen Hill	Mitzie & Jerry
Brittney Meyers, Talot Omar, Terry Baker	Mitzie & Jerry
Nathan Winters	Dianne Short
Arlene Simmons, Charlotte & Ed Troutman, Amy, Jacie Fairall	Barb Simmons
Karen Mackert	Paul & Ruth C
Elise & Henry Jack Balber	Jack Zealand
Tony Greaver, Betty Llewellyn/Cartwright, Cheryl Trusler	Joyce D
Owen Dolan, Shepherd Grace	Sherry Tedrow
Cheri Bielen	Jane Miller
Bernard Michael, Carolyn Farr,	Diane K.
Graham Tower, Jaime Pletcher, Karen Ford	Diane K
Richard Clark, Zachary Sutterfield, Alexis Smith	Anne DeVaughn
Diane Davis, Nancy Smith, James Flynn	Antoinette Royster
Joy Kroeger-Mappes Carmen and Lance Jackson	Antoinette Royster
Gretchen Burke	Val & Gary Llewellyn
Sally, Roger, James Tibbets	Dave Tibbetts
Andy Cocco	John Cocco
Ashley Turnbull, Marie Turnbull	Lita Havens
Dan Carr, Matt Doman	Steven Hansrote
Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane	Kristan Fazenbaker
Mary Lou Dorsey	Trina Firey
Vic Werner	Barbara Martin
Belinda Keller	Linda McCagh
Barbara Blough	Janice & Dave LaBuda
Paul Haddle, Galen Dean Krepps	Lisa Ahern
Jared McGensie, Chris Twigg	Patty Wilson and Rosey
Breanna Brown	Debbie Fornwalt
Kamryn Rice	Corinna Hilderbrand
Candy Heverly	Charlotte Luy
Elizabeth Ororke, Brooks Chamers, Barbara Fridengu	L. Marchini
Erin Morrissey	Terri McCagh
Teddy Rankin	Fred & Kathy Powell
Alicia, Joel, Ella (finding a home)	

Please keep us updated

- all people affected by the wildfires and other disasters
- all people that are affected by the war
- all elected officials
- those who serve in our nation's armed forces including Rick Rounds, Tom Forrest,
Luke Smith



July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost