

Christ Lutheran Church
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Mission Statement – “*Loving God, Loving People*”

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

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

Jesus’ parable about two sons who don’t do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

WELCOME

Announcements

Prelude

*** A Call to Worship**

P: We speak the words, "I love you, Lord."

C: May we act on those words, too, O Lord, in showing love to one another.

P: We speak the words, "You are the center of my life, Lord."

C: May we act on those words, too, O Lord, by spending time in prayer and worship.

P: We speak the words, "I am your servant, Lord."

C: May we act on those words, too, O Lord, by serving you and one another.

P: We speak the words, "I am yours forever, Lord."

C: May we act on those words, too, O Lord, living for you and for others all the days of our life.

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

* 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.

* Gloria

(Setting 6 – Page 167)

Refrain S 167

The musical score is written on ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two main sections by a double bar line. The first section contains the first two staves of music, and the second section contains the remaining eight staves. The lyrics are as follows:

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
2 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



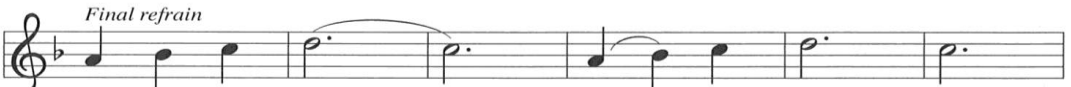
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

*** Prayer of the Day**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Lesson: *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die.

²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: *Psalm 25:1-9*

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day
long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

Second Lesson: *Philippians 2:1-13*

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any
partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my
joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full
accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty

conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* Gospel Acclamation

(Setting 6 – Page 171)

S 171a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Holy Gospel: *Matthew 21:23-32*

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Martha Macgill

Hymn 798

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

* 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

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: God of creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always. **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 6 – Page 173)

S 173

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

* 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: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

(Setting 6 – Page 174)

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.

Distribution of the Sacrament

* 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: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen**

* Blessing

P: The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

* **Sending Hymn 826**

“Thine the Amen”

* Dismissal

L: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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, September 27– Gary Llewellyn

This Wednesday, September 30 – No Service

Next Sunday, October 4 – David Tibbetts

Next Wednesday, October 7 – Jeff Smith

Ushers – Kameron Brooks, Bill Bingman

Organist – Lea Ann Alter

AV – Steve Hansrote, Mark Lathrop

Joyce DeMonbrun

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 honor of our granddaughter, Piper 10th birthday by Shirley & Jim Smith.

The Communion Bread & Wine have been given to the glory of God in honor of Ed and Lita Havens' wedding anniversary."

The September Newsletter has been given to the glory of God by Dianne & Ray Short.

This week –

This Sunday – September 27, Worship – 10:00am, by Rev Martha Macgill

Tuesday – REACH Committee – 4:30pm

Wednesday – Worship – No Service

Thursday – Bible Study – 10:30am

Friday – Diane's Music class – 10:00, Ladybirds – 11:00am, Crafts – 1-3pm

Saturday – Garden – 11:00 Indoor Growing & Hydroponics

Next Sunday – October 4, Worship – 10:00am followed by Adult Bible Study

"Last Call" to order a hymnal. **Today is the last Sunday we will take orders.** We now have 47 copies donated. If you wish to donate, please let us know now! **The cost is \$15.00 per hymnal.** You may put this in the offering plate or bring to the church office.

No Wednesday Services this week September 30th due to Pastor being away on vacation.

During our Cumberland Interfaith Ministerial Association (CAIMA) meeting on Wednesday, **Pastor Alexa gave us an update on relief efforts that are still underway for the people in Westernport and Coney.** Pastor Alexa has been trying since the flood to get contractors to her home to do repairs. Some workers are just now coming to her home.

Following is a link to the Long Term Recovery Group. They are still seeking volunteers to help with both skilled (dry wall, etc.) and unskilled work (for example, hauling materials to a site in a truck: if you have a pickup and can drive but cannot do heavy lifting, they will load and unload it with needed supplies.)

<https://www.westernmdltr.org/general-4>

Following the devastating disaster that struck Nepal, where an avalanche-triggered flood hit the northwestern part of the country. Thousands of people have been affected, and many homes, hydropower projects, bridges, and other infrastructure were swept away by the flash flood. **Our church council has designated that we will collect donations through the month of October for Lutheran Disaster Relief for Nepal.** If you wish to donation, please make checks payable to Christ Lutheran, care of Nepal. Thanks you.

Our Emergency Aid Fund is getting low. With fall and cold weather coming we expect that the need will increase. If this is something that you wish to support, please make donations care of Emergence Fund. Thanks.

Crafts in the upper kitchen on the first Friday of each month from 1-3:00pm.

On October 2nd, bring your own craft and quilting. November 6th, Elaine Reuschlein will teach making greeting cards with fabric. December 4th, Margie Orth will teach Iris paper folding. Start saving interesting paper designs to bring (wrapping paper - calendar thickness).

Chicken Dinner and Talent Show at St Luke's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at 1601 Frederick Street on October 3rd at 5:00pm. Cost: Adults to age 11: \$15.00, youth age 10-4: \$7.50, children age 3 and under free. Tickets are available by calling Carol Straw 240-803-9292. Sponsored by: The St. Luke's Women of the ELCA (See poster by the side entrance.)

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – September 20, 2026

Attendance	In-Person 10:00am = 52	No Adult SCS = 40 (Reception)
	Zoom 10:00am = 6	Bible Study 9/17 = 5
Wed. Sept 23	In Person 6:30pm = No service	
	Zoom =	

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2026

Received	=	2,608.00
Needed weekly	=	4,265.56
		(\$1,657.56)

BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-AUG 2026

Actual Income	=	\$138,242.39
Actual Expenses	=	(146,533.69)
		(\$ 8,291.30)

PRAYER LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

Sandi Shoemaker
Rae Ann Smith
Barb Simmons
Pam Mulligan
Jack Zealand
Bill & MarySue Crawford
Linda & Dave McCagh
Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
Doris Baker
Jeff Smith
Terri McCagh
Patty Wilson
Jane Miller
Ruth Chiarenza
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
Martha Macgill

- for Nepal
- 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: Tom Forrest, Luke Smith

PRAYER RECIPIENT

Brad & Gregg Dawson, Stephen Overtom	<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
Marion Boone, Belinda Keller	Linda McCagh
Barbara Blough	Janice & Dave LaBuda
Paul Haddle, Galen Dean Krepps	Lisa Ahern
Breanna Brown	Debbie Fornwalt
Kamryn Rice	Corinna Hilderbrand
Candy Heverly	Charlotte Luy
Elizabeth Ororke, Brooks Chambers, Barbara Fridengu	L. Marchini
Erin Morrissey	Terri McCagh
Teddy Rankin	Fred & Kathy Powell
Wilson Scarborough	Rae Ann Smith

Please keep us updated



September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost