

Christ Lutheran Church
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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

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

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

WELCOME

Announcements & Prelude

*** A Call to Worship**

P: O God, you are the Master of our lives.

C: May we never make earthly possessions our master.

P: O God, please take the lead in our lives.

C: May we never let money take control of us.

P: O God, you are the one who tells us the truth.

C: May we never be deceived by the devil's false promises.

P: O God, your presence enriches our lives.

C: May we never trade your presence in our lives for the riches of this world.

P: O God, you wish to have first place in our lives.

C: May we never seek to replace you with something or someone else.

P: O God, you have become a part of who we are.

C: May we never be pulled apart from you.

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

* **Gathering Hymn 710**

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

* 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

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 - mighty God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain S 167

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



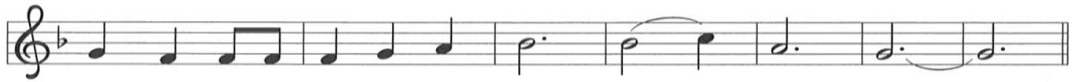
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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 among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: *Amos 8:4-7*

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: *Psalms 113*

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹ of the LORD;
praise the name ¹ of the LORD.

² **Let the name of the ¹ LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its [|] going down
let the name of the [|] LORD be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high a- [|] bove all nations;
God's glory a- [|] bove the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the [|] LORD our God,
who sits en- [|] throned on high,

⁶ **but stoops [|] to behold
the heavens [|] and the earth?**

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out [|] of the dust
and lifts up the poor [|] from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them [|] with the rulers,
with the rulers [|] of the people.**

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a [|] childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. [|] Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: *1 Timothy 2:1-7*

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and
an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles
in faith and truth. 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 Luke the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel: *Luke 16:1-13*

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down

quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Swanson

Hymn 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

* 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
Chancel Choir

* 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: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

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: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

* Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* Sending Hymn 655

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

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, Sept 21 – Anne DeVaughn

Wednesday, Sept 24 – Debbie Fornwalt

Next Sunday, Sept 28 – Sally Buser

Next Wednesday, Oct 1 – Lydia Martin

Sept Ushers – Jeff Smith, Barb Simmons

Organist – Rae Ann Smith

A/V – Steve, Dave, Joyce

The Bulletins has been given to the glory of God by Antoinette Royster in memory of her parents Robert Lee Royster 95th and Hattie Mae Royster 95th heavenly birthdays plus, her siblings Ronald Sylvester Lewis Royster, who would have turned 75, and Deborah Carol Royster Lewis, who would have celebrated her 72nd birthday also this year.

The Communion Bread has been given to the glory of God in honor of our granddaughter, Piper's 9th birthday by Jim & Shirley Smith.

The September Newsletter has been given to the glory of God in memory of parents, Kermit & Thelma Failing by Ray & Dianne Short.

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

Congregational meeting today, September 21 following our worship, at which time *the 2024 Financial Books can be closed, and we can update the congregation on the sale of our property.* Please plan to attend.

New Bible Studies - We completed our study of Revelation on Sunday, August 31st. We are now studying women of the Bible on Sunday mornings, 11:30am. We will begin a study on Thursday mornings, **starting September 25th at 10:30am** on God and Suffering. Please come join us!



Next Wednesday, October 1st – 6:30 p.m. – St Francis Day Service/Blessing of Animals. No pet is too large, too small or too slimy to be included. Please come with your pets appropriately restrained (harnessed, caged, submerged, etc.) and have a great time praising God with all of God's creatures! We will meet on the pavilion by the side parking lot.

This week –

This Sunday –Worship - 10:00am followed by Congregation Meeting, (if time Adult SS)

Tuesday – Garden labyrinth – 7-9am

Worship & Music – 2:00pm

Wednesday – Social Ministry – 2:00pm

Worship Service – 6:30pm

Chancel Choir rehearsal – 7:30pm

Thursday – Bible Study – 10:30am “God’s Suffering”

Friday – Diane’s Music classes, Lady Birds – 11:00am

Next Sunday, Worship – 10:00am followed by Adult Sunday School

Church Yard Sale – Fundraising is planning a **Christmas Yard sale** on Friday, October 31st and Saturday, Nov 1st from 8-12pm. **We need Christmas decorations, ornaments or anything Christmas for this sale.** You may bring to church starting on Sunday, October 26th. Thanks again!

Thanks to all who participated in the recent survey on giving that was conducted by the Mission and Generosity Committee. The committee wanted to share the conclusions that were presented to the Church Council:

First, the survey's findings suggest that there are many factors that influence people's decisions about their regular financial giving to Christ Lutheran Church. Future EMR campaigns need to speak to each of these multiple factors in order to be effective. For example, in deciding how much to give, people not only consider their own individual circumstances (income and expenses), but also the needs of the Church and the community (local, regional, and global).

Second, the survey findings also suggest that the practice of inviting people to make an annual pledge to Christ Lutheran Church and the practice of distributing church envelopes are still valued and should be continued.

Third, because of the even split among respondents to the question on tithing, it may be useful for the Mission and Generosity Committee to revisit this idea by way of educating people and helping them to adopt tithing as an ongoing spiritual practice.

Finally, it may also be useful for both the Mission and Generosity Committee and the Church Council to revisit the Biblical foundations of giving. Although some respondents to the survey seemed to reflect the spirit of being a generous giver in response to the blessings that God has given to all people, other respondents seemed to reflect the idea of giving as a response to decisions that are made by the Pastor and/or the Church Council.

If you would like a full copy of the final report from the survey, they are available on the round table in the main narthex.

God's Work – Our Hands Event – every year the ELCA asks local congregations to become involved in an activity that reaches out to their community. The Mission and Generosity Committee believes that we should help the George's Creek area and to that end we have contacted the area rep of the Allegany County Public Schools. She suggested that we collect cleaning supplies as the need continues. **The needed supplies include: paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, sponges and dish rags, all purpose cleaning spray, disinfecting wipes and aerosol spray, toilet bowl cleaner, and glass cleaner.** We will place a box in the Narthex to begin to collect items. Rather than make this a "one day" event, we will make it a "one + month" event. Our neighbors in George's Creek continue to suffer from the flood. This is a way that we can do God's Work and share our love with them. Please bring your items to church. Should you prefer contributing cash/check, please place it in an envelope marked **"George's Creek."** Thank you for your "helping hands."

Thanks to everyone who has kept the donations coming for the LaVale Food Pantry! For the month of September, we'd like to encourage you to donate **canned tuna**. We also welcome any other unopened and unexpired non-perishable food items.

CLC Archival Items & Artifacts - To help us preserve and manage our collection with care, please follow these guidelines when interacting with the CLC Archives Room:

- Donating or Borrowing: Kindly sign the designated log sheet when donating or borrowing any items or artifacts.
- Dropping Off or Returning: Please place all items on the log sheet table so our archives team can properly process and store them.

Your cooperation ensures the integrity and organization of our archives—thank you for being part of it! The CLC Archivs Team

Stock the Shelves for Mission and Ministry - Our Church Council at our June meeting decided to help our 2025 budget.

Some of the items needed are:

- **AA, AAA and 9V size batteries**
- **dishwashing liquid and paper towels**
- **cleaning supplies, bleach, toilet bowl cleaners etc.**
- **white copier paper: (reg., legal or ledger), colored paper and postage stamps**
- **napkins, paper plates, bowls and cups**
- **Baggies (large and small), aluminum foil and clear wrap**
- **toilet paper, disinfectant wipes & sprays, window cleaners, hand sanitizers**

We thank you for your help in any small way. **We will be collecting items through the month of September.** Devotions may be placed on the table in the main narthex.

Thanks

Christ Lutheran Church, with the help of community members, is building a memorial garden for use by our community for remembering loved ones, or just quiet contemplation and connection with nature. It will consist of a bench for resting, a memorial stone for experiencing artistic beauty, a tree (weeping redbud) for experiencing natural beauty, and a labyrinth for centering thoughts. It joins with our meadow meander - already developed – connecting with the beauty of nature through all five senses, and our community pantry garden and orchard that provides fresh produce along with companionship for neighbors who need it. **If you're into rocks, or puzzling, join us to build Tuesday mornings 7-9am. Or come to visit anytime.** Easy access is from Martz Lane behind the church - just park on the grass.

The CROP Walk will be on October 12. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the CBIZ parking lot downtown Cumberland. The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m. It is a 2-mile round-trip on the Great Allegany Passage. **For more information, please see Rae Ann.**

From Our Church Council,

This message contains important updates regarding committee finances and operations at Christ Lutheran Church, LaVale, effective October 1, 2025. These changes, recommended by our recent audit and approved by the CLC Council, aim to improve transparency and efficiency in our financial processes.

****Shipping of Church Supplies and Equipment:****

To ensure clarity and accountability, we request that all committee supply and equipment orders be shipped directly to Christ Lutheran Church, 1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, MD, whenever feasible. This centralizes deliveries and simplifies our inventory management. If there are exceptional circumstances requiring delivery to a private address, please contact the church treasurer in advance for approval.

****Reimbursement Procedures:****

To streamline the reimbursement process, please submit all receipts for church-related purchases to the church secretary or treasurer by the 15th of the following month. Late submissions will unfortunately not be processed for reimbursement. To facilitate accurate processing, please ensure receipts clearly distinguish between expenses incurred for church use and personal expenses. Only receipts for church-related expenses should be submitted for reimbursement. If a single receipt contains both personal and church-related expenses, please separate these items into distinct submissions. We are happy to assist in clarifying expenses if needed.

****October Council Meeting:****

Please note that the October Council meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, October 6, 2025, at the usual time. Committee reports are required by noon on that day. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring timely submissions. We look forward to your active or written participation in the meeting.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service to Christ Lutheran Church. If you have any questions regarding these updates, please do not hesitate to contact a church council member.

Sincere thanks - Sally Buser CLC Council Secretary

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – September 14, 2025

Attendance In-Person 10:00am =	39	Adult SCS =	6
Zoom 10:00am =	11		
Wed. Sept 17 In-Person 6:30pm =	11		
Zoom 6:30pm =	3		

BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2025

Received =	\$3,623.93
Needed weekly =	<u>4,044.04</u>
	(420.11)

BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-AUGUST 2025

Actual Income =	\$131,991.85
Actual Expenses =	<u>(145,994.65)</u>
	(\$ 14,002.80)

PRAYER LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS

Jane Miller
Sherry Tedrow
Jack Zealand
Pam Mulligan
Anna Bruck
Bill & MarySue Crawford
Gail Dawson
Gary Llewellyn
Mitzie & Jerry Robinette
Patty Wilson
Ed Havens
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
Mary Lou Rowles
Donna Yaider
Laura Murray

PRAYER RECIPIENT

Christina Puffinburger	<i>Requested by</i> Elwood & Janet Glass
Raymond Garthwait, Stephen Overtoom	Gail Dawson
Charles Johnson, Barbara Williams	Sharon M
Joe Kunsman, Linda Nines, Ellen Hill	Mitzie & Jerry
Brittney Meyers, Talot Omar, Terry Baker	Mitzie & Jerry
Nathan Winters	Dianne Short
Charlotte & Ed Troutman, Arlene Simmons.	Amy, Jacie Fairall Barb Simmons
Carl Chiarenza, Karen Mackert	Paul & Ruth C
Elise & Henry Jack Balber	Jack Zealand
Cheryl Trusler	Joyce D
Cheri Bielen	Jane Miller
Baby Whetzel, Kevin Mistretta, Carolyn Farr, Kendra Morriss, Paula Rose	Diane
Dan Moore, Graham Tower, Lisa Storm, 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
Bob Aman, Susie Spiker	Shirley & Jim Smith
Gretchen Burke	Val & Gary Llewellyn
Sally, Roger, James Tibbets	Dave Tibbetts
Andy Cocco	John Cocco
Marie Turnbull, Steven Suzindlak, Taylor Neumann	Lita Havens
Dan Carr, Matt Doman	Steven Hansrote
Lois Shunk	Sherry T
Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane	Kristan Fazenbaker
Mary Lou Dorsey	Trina Firey
Vic Werner	Barbara Martin
Belinda Keller	Linda McCagh
Madeline Lopes	Al James
Barbara Blough	Janice & Dave LaBuda
Galen Dean Krepps	Lisa Ahern
Jared McGensie, Chris Twigg	Patty Wilson and Rosey

Please keep us updated

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025