

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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New website: [CLCLaVale.org](http://CLCLaVale.org).

**Wednesday Service (In-Person & 6:30pm Zoom)**

September 24, 2025 –6:30pm

**\* Call to Worship**

P: Come and partake of the feast of God.

**C: We are hungry and in need of food.**

P: God comes to satisfy our deepest needs.

**C: It is only God who can fill our hearts.**

P: God comes to us humbly in simple gifts.

**C: With humility we open our hearts to God.**

**\* Gathering Hymn 1052**

**“When Our World is Rent by Violence”**

1 When our world is rent by vio - lence and our lives are  
2 When our cit - ies stand for - sak - en and the poor must  
3 When our lives are burnt to ash - es; and our hopes fade  
4 Raise up beau - ty from the ash - es; end our vio - lence;

marred by grief, when our songs of calm as - sur - ance  
beg for bread, when the pris - 'ner sits for - got - ten  
like a dream, when our sto - ries lose their mean - ing  
tend our peace. Give us vi - sions of a fu - ture

turn to cries of un - be - lief: God, we raise our  
and the home - less find no bed, God, we raise our  
and de - spair be - comes their theme, God, we raise our  
where all cap - tives find re - lease, where op - pres - sion

lam - en - ta - tion seek - ing ref - uge and re - lief.  
lam - en - ta - tion: wak - en jus - tice from the dead!  
lam - en - ta - tion: Come, Lord Je - sus, to re - deem!  
is e - vic - ted, and all works of ha - tred cease.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: FORTUNATUS NEW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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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.

**\* The Prayer of the Day**

**O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Reading:** *Amos 6:1a, 4-7*

<sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

<sup>4</sup> Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory  
and lounge on their couches  
and eat lambs from the flock  
and calves from the stall,

<sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp  
and like David improvise on instruments of music,

<sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

**Homily**

Pastor Daniel Swanson

**\* Prayers of the People**

**\* 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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **\* The 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.**

### **\* 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 451**

**“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”**

### **\* Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God**



St. Francis

**Next Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – 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. (No Communion.)

**New Bible Studies** - We will begin a study on Thursday mornings, **starting September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am** on God and Suffering. Please come join us!

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

**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.

**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."

**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.**