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Time after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

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

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

WELCOME

Announcements & Prelude

* A Call to Worship

P: O Lord, protect us from the dangers of this world--

C: earthquake and famine, warfare and plague--

P: signs of this world's deathward decay. O Lord, protect us from the dangers of sin--

C: for we are in bondage and cannot free ourselves.

P: Loose our chains, O Lord.

C: Open our shackles.

P: And free us from the fear of the unknown. For you are with us.

C: Your good and gracious will is, even now, being done.

P: And the promises of your eternal kingdom are both sure ...

C: ... and secure!

P: Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now ...

C: and forever. Amen.

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths.

We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.

We ignore our neighbors.

We exploit the earth.

We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news:

C: Amen.

^{*} Gathering Hymn 902 ACS (Bulletin Page 13) "Come Now, O God"

* 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.





* Prayer of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: Malachi 4:1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 98

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- ² O LORD, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- ⁴ Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands; lift up your voice, re-| joice, and sing.
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD | with the harp, with the harp and the | voice of song.
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound | of the horn shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.

- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it, the world and those who | dwell therein.
- ⁸ Let the rivers | clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.
- ⁹ The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness and the peo- | ples with equity.

Second Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

12 "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, 15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 You will be hated by all because of my name. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Swanson

Hymn 1052 ACS (Bulletin Page 14)

"When Our World is Rent by Violence"

* 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

Anthem "It Is Well With My Soul"

Chancel Choir Arrangement Lloyd Larson

- * Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
- * The Offertory **Hymn 674**

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Refrain

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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* Offertory Prayer

L: God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever. **Amen.**

* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

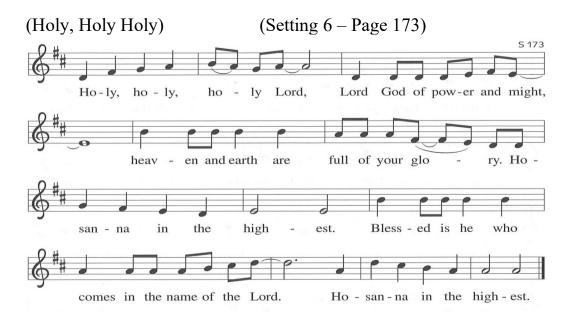
P: Lift up your hearts.

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:



* 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: There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

"Lamb of God"

Chancel Choir

Words and Music - Rob Temple

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: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: Amen

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* Blessing

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,

God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you + and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

C: Amen.

* Sending Hymn 878

"Soli Deo Gloria"

* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

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.

The Communion Bread & Wine have been given to the glory of God in memory of Jim's grandmother, Agnes Crump by Jim & Shirley Smith.

The November Newsletter has been given to the glory of God in memory of Garrett and in memory of Merle's and my anniversary by Sally Buser.

"Come Now, O God" - ACS 902



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984 Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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"When Our World is Rent by Violence" - ACS 1052



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

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

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Lectors for our Services

This Sunday, November 16 – Anne De Vaughn Ushers: Ken Wendell, Gary Llewellyn

Wednesday, November 19 – Jeff Smith

Next Sunday, November 23 – Sally Buser Organist: Rae Ann Smith

Next Wednesday, November 26 – Lydia Martin A/V – Kathy, Dave, Mark, Joyce

New Bible Studies - We are now studying women of the Bible on Sunday mornings, 11:30am and the God and Suffering on Thursday mornings at 10:30am. This is also on Zoom! Please come join us!

This week -

This Sunday – Worship at 10:00am followed by Adult SCS

Blood Pressure

Tuesday – Thanksgiving Baskets Distribution

Wednesday - Service - 6:30pm

Chancel Choir rehearsal – 7:30pm

Thursday – Bible Study – 10:30am "God's Suffering"

Kennel Club – 6:00pm

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

Next Sunday - Worship at 10:00am followed by Adult SCS with Noisy Offering

The Yearly EMR (Every Member Response) Campaign!! Please pick up Blue Bags and your 2026 Envelopes in the narthex.

It is that time of the year again; all committee budgets need to be to Ed Havens on or before November 16th. Thanks.

Noisy Offering – next Sunday, November 23rd– the Mission and Generosity Committee The funds will be sent to the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and earmarked for flood disaster relief in Allegany and Garrett Counties. Please save your change so our offering will be VERY NOISY!! Thanks!

God's Work – Our Hands – we still have a few boxes to fill with items that continue to be needed in the George's Creek Flood Recovery Effort. In addition to the cleaning supplies, you may want to include underwear items and socks. A teacher at George's Creek Elementary School has told me that children sometimes come to school in need of such items. Another option is a monetary donation placed in an envelope noted "God's Work-Our Hands". Thank you for your willingness to help those in our community who continue to recover from the flood.

It is QUICKLY nearing Thanksgiving time of year. *All items should be brought to the church by TODAY*. Recipients will pick up baskets on Tuesday, November 18 between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. We thank you in advance for everything/anything that you can do to continue our characteristic community care. Social Ministry Committee

Garden News! The garden has been put to bed for the winter. As we look back over this planting season there is much to celebrate. We had a combination of very committed community members, church members and organizations who made our efforts a success. Some raised food for their own use, some provided community service and education, and others provided food for the LaVale United Methodist Church Food Pantry (over 667 pounds of fresh vegetables). The gardening classes provided by the University of MD Extension were very well attended. God has truly blessed! Thank you for your support!

Get out your calendars and mark the dates!!! On Friday, December 5th you are invited to attend an Advent Craft night. There will be crafts for all ages, and in the near future we will share what those crafts are. We have elves behind the scenes make some so you can see what will be available. To help offset the cost of materials, if you are able, we will be asking for five dollars (\$5.00) per family. The evening would not be complete without snacks so please bring something to share.

THEN...

On Sunday, December 7th immediately following the service you are invited to stay for a light lunch and Hanging of the Greens. We will be decorating the Christmas tree, the sanctuary and the narthex. During lunch you will be invited to participate in some Christmas trivia and as we decorate the building will be filled with the music of the season. Please join your fellow congregation members as we celebrate the season. *THEN*...

On Sunday, December 14th immediately following the service you are invited to stay for a light lunch and a PLAY around 12:30pm

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – November 9, 2025

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Please join us for a

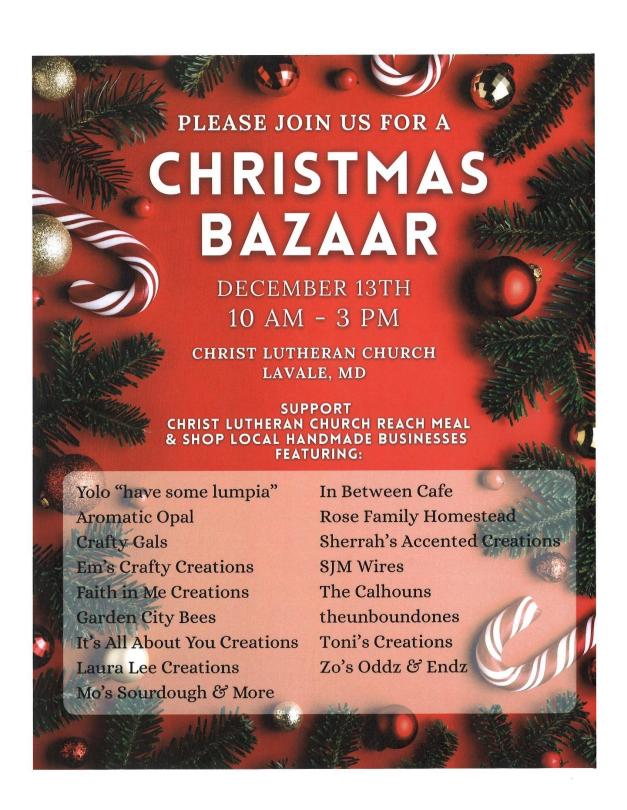
Thanksgiving INTERFAITH SERVICE

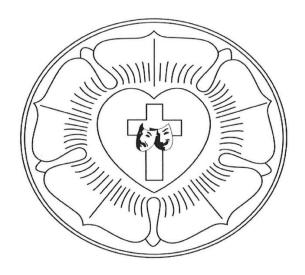


november 25 7:00 pm

Hosted by LaVale United Methodist Church at 565 National Highway LaVale, MD

> Please bring a side dish or dessert to share at the reception that will follow





The Christ Lutheran Players present....

Operation: Whispering Pines

Sunday, December 14th at 12:30pm in the Christ Lutheran Fellowship Hall

We'll enjoy a light lunch after church, and then the show.

Whispering Pines is a small, homey assisted living facility, but for how long? Upon the death of the owner, the facility has passed to his daughter who is determined to unload this "albatross." She has lined up buyers but there's only one problem – or really, six problems – the current residents.

Together they agree they are not going out without a fight! Knowing the new owner must find another facility to take them in, they come up with an elaborate scheme to ensure not one else will accept them. Can they pull off a Christmas miracle, or will it backfire? Will they lose their "family of friends?"

Bring a friend to church and share lunch and a fun holiday story with them!

The labyrinth

Often, in this time of year, whether walking or driving outside, don't you suddenly notice a "cloud" of birds, swooping overhead, they swiftly change course, instantly rearranging their formation, while they look a shimmering silver as the light falls differently on them. They never lose their speed as they change all at once again, looking dark now against the blue sky. winging and maneuvering the winds they encounter, seeming certain of the direction they are going to faraway places, they may never have been before.

Did you hear the honking of the Canadian geese, and see them flying overhead forming in the familiar V- shape? They also seem so sure of where they are going, encouraging each other with a honk, while they take turns leading their formation.

Have you seen a school of small fish in a creek, river, or lake, as they swim in formation? First, they form a rectangle, swimming in one direction, then in a flash, they turn and swim in the opposite directions and within another flash, they form a circle and rotate around an invisible center, each time forming themselves anew in coordinated patterns.

There are invisible patterns all through nature imprinted in each species, such as: in migrating whales; bears going for hibernation; baby turtles breaking out of their eggshells in the sand, to crawl across the beach to enter the ocean for their life's journey; the Monarch butterfly's long flight to warmer climates; the salmons' return to their birthplace to spawn, birds building intricate nests, and caring for their young...

Patterns are woven mysteriously into the web of Creation. "So too, is the longing of the human heart, to love and to nurture, to create and to discover the mystery we are in, that lives within us," (from Lauren Artress, "Walking a Sacred Path, Rediscovering the Labyrinth").

So, I believe imprinted in each human life too is a longing to seek God, over and over again, as we learn to fly on wings of faith, seeking deepening meaning, and inner peace, as we experience beauty and pain in this complex world. We also "fly" in community, encouraging each other...

One of many ways to seek God, and to find inner peace, has been through walking in meditation on the labyrinth. Labyrinths have been known for over 4,000 years, and can be found around the world. It has been an ancient symbol for the Holy in all of Creation. We do not know the origin of its design, which is a large complex spiral circle.

Entering the labyrinth, the path spirals clockwise to the center, while in prayer or meditation we can carry questions, concerns, or simply listen intently to nature sounds of bird, wind, branches. Walking out of the center, the path winds counterclockwise and ushers us back into the world, perhaps a little more strengthened in purpose, or in peace.

There are many, many ways to walk the labyrinth. Next time I will tell you a little more about symbolic meanings of the labyrinth which developed over the ages. Lydia Martin

PRAYER LIST FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Christina Puffinburger

PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS Anna Bruck Claudia Knotts Jane Miller Jack Zealand **Ed Havens**

Bill & MarySue Crawford

Gail Dawson

Mitzie & Jerry Robinette

Patty Wilson 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

Requested by Elwood & Janet Glass Brad & Gregg Dawson, 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

Paul & Ruth C Carl Chiarenza, Karen Mackert 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, Joan Paul Shirley & Jim Smith Val & Gary Llewellyn Gretchen Burke Sally, Roger, James Tibbets Dave Tibbetts Andy Cocco John Cocco

Marie Turnbull, Steven Suzindlak, Taylor Neumann Lita Havens

Dan Carr, Matt Doman Steven Hansrote Michele Jones, Lois Shunk Sherry T

Kristan Fazenbaker Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane Mary Lou Dorsey Trina Firev

Vic Werner Barbara Martin Belinda Keller Linda McCagh **Madeline Lopes** Al James

Janice & Dave LaBuda Barbara Blough

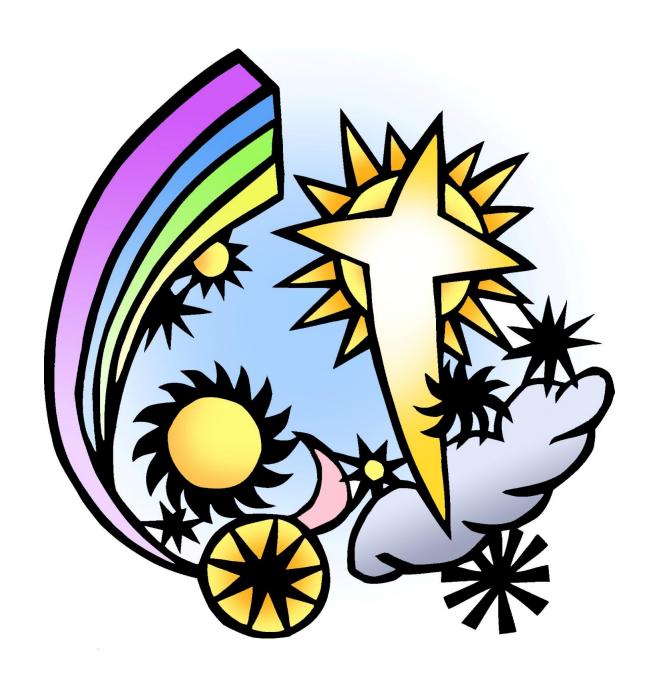
Galen Dean Krepps Lisa Ahern

Jared McGensie, Chris Twigg Patty Wilson and Rosey Breanna Brown Debbie Fornwalt Kamrvn Rice Corinna Hilderbrand Candy Heverly Charlotte Luy

Please keep us updated

- -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

⁻all people affected by the wildfires and other disasters



November 16, 2025