

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, Maryland
Email: christlutheran@atlanticbbn.net
New website: CLCLaVale.org.

Wednesday Evening Service (In-Person & Zoom)

May 27, 2026 – 6:30pm

Prelude

*** Call to Worship**

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Spirit moved over the waters, as the Creator set to work.

C: In the beginning God was modeling community for us.

P: Jesus told his disciples that when he left them his Father would send them the Holy Spirit.

C: God finds ways to meet us where we are, as we need.

All: Thanks be to God, Holy Trinity!

*** Gathering Hymn 631**

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

*** Greeting**

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

*** The Prayer of the Day**

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading: *Romans 8*

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

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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.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to

separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

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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

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

C: Amen.

*** Sending Hymn 763**

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

*** Dismissal**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Mrs. Marian Ramona Tracy Bittle was one of the Charter Members of Christ Lutheran Church, LaVale. She passed away on May 14, 2025 - at the age of 96. Among the many roles Ms. Marian served in as a member of CLC, she was the church's original archivist.

To honor her legacy and the other Charter Women of CLC, beginning on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2026, and throughout the rest of the month, the CLC Archives Committee will display in the Narthex the photo album created by Ms. Marian that chronicles the church's history from the 1960s to the 1980s, which the team has refurbished.

Please take time to stop by the Narthex to go down CLC's pictorial history lane. **The album pages are a bit fragile, so please handle them gently.** *Sponsored by the CLC Archives Committee*

As you are doing your Spring cleaning 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!!!! Start gathering.** We do have limited space if you need to bring early. See Shirley.