

Christ Lutheran Church
23425 Davis Mill Road
Germantown, Maryland 20876

A Congregation of the American Association of Lutheran Churches



Our Mission Statement

We strive to be worthy witnesses to the world.

**At Christ Lutheran, we strive to lead lives worthy of our calling as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in God's world.
(Ephesians 4:1)**

Web Site: clcmd.org or christlutheranofgermantown.org

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Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist:



The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

During the music before the service let us join in a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*Please stand as you are able where marked****

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

****The Confession and Absolution*

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(A time of silent reflection and self-examination.)

Pastor: Most merciful God.

People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Pastor: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

****Opening Hymn:*

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Hymn #187

*Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits on him who answers prayer.
O how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace.*

*Here, O God, I come before thee, Come thou also down to me;
Where we find thee and adore thee, There a heaven on earth must be:
To my heart O enter thou, Let it be thy temple now.*

*Here thy praise is gladly chanted, Here thy seed is duly sown;
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone:
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.*

*Thou my faith increase and quicken, Let me keep thy gift divine;
Howsoe'er temptations thicken, May thy word still o'er me shine,
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in my strife.*

*Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, Let thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near thee While thou dost thy people feed; .
Here of life the fountain flows, Here is balm for all our woes.*

*****Psalm: Psalm 65:1-8 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion;

People: to you our vows will be fulfilled.

Liturgist: O you who hear prayer,

People: to you all men will come.

Liturgist: When we were overwhelmed by sins,

People: you forgave our transgressions.

Liturgist: Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

People: We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple

Liturgist: You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior,

People: the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

Liturgist: who formed the mountains by your power,

People: having armed yourself with strength,

Liturgist: who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,

People: and the turmoil of the nations.

Liturgist: Those living far away fear your wonders;

People: where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.

*****The Gloria Patri: (sung)** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

*****The Kyrie: (responses are sung)**

Liturgist: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Liturgist: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

Liturgist: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Liturgist: Glory be to God on high!

*****Gloria in Excelsis: (sung)** *And on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen*

*****Collect:**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Liturgist: Let us pray.

People: Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Scripture Lessons:

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, 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 sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia: (sung) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Liturgist: Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the thirteenth chapter of Saint Matthew beginning with the first verse.

*****People (sung)** Glory be to thee, O Lord

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Liturgist: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

*****People: (sung)** Praise be to thee, O Christ



Pulpit Hymn:

Almighty God

Hymn #196

*Almighty God, thy word is cast Like seed into the ground,
Now let the dew of heaven descend And righteous fruits abound.*

*Let not the foe of Christ and man This holy seed remove.
But give it root in every heart To bring forth fruits of love.*

*Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.*

*Oft as the precious seed is sown Thy quickening grace bestow,
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving power may know.*

Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



The Sermon Response: (sung) *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

*****Passing of the Peace**

*****The Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

*****The General Prayer: (after each petition)**

Vicar: Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

*****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, For ever and ever. Amen.

*****The Prayer Response: (sung)**

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.

*****The Benediction:**

Vicar: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: (sung) *A-men, A-men, A----men.*

*****Closing Hymn:**

God's Word is our Great Heritage

Hymnal #257

*God's word is our great heritage, And shall be ours forever;
Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay;
Lord grant while time shall last, Thy Church may hold it fast
Through-out all generations.*

*To spread its light from age to age Be this our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay;
Lord grant while time shall last, Thy Church may hold it fast
Through-out all generations.*

*****The Postlude**

Prayers and Praises:

For our church leaders:

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carey G. Larson
Assistant Presiding Pastor: Rev. Roger Twito
AALC Administrator: Rev. Dean Stoner
Secretary Pastor: Rev. Joe Marsh
Home Mission Developer: Rev. Joe Christina
National Office Manager: Bonnie Ohlrich
Seminary President: Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper
Seminary Administrator: Duane Kleven

Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Dorothy Foster	Brian Gray
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Norita Shipley	Debbie Stapf	Jimmy Beall
Ben Flynn	Meryl Benenati	Rodney Perini	Mary Neighly
Rev. Joe Christina	Carolyn Shriver	Sarah Shriver	Carolyn Kelly

For those that have suffered loss due to hurricanes, fires, and other natural disasters

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke,
Bethany Hueter, Ethan Stone, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: The Rev. Joe Christina, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, NC

For our missionary work: Shiri Parish

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Iglesia La Casa De Dios

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Maddie Day, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Monday – 11AM at Joe's home.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – 10 AM at Church.**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13th.**
- **You may continue to watch the Sunday services (10:30 AM) via Livestream on Facebook – Christ Lutheran Church AALC. The Bulletins for the services are on our website: clcmd.org or christlutheranofgermantown.org. The video of every livestream is on our Facebook page. You can access the livestream by clicking the link at the bottom of the first page of our website or by visiting the Facebook page directly. Be sure to click on the 'videos' tab.**
- **We are collecting boxed macaroni and cheese for Damascus HELP during the month of July. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **We are collecting school supplies for Faith Connections through the first week in August. There is a collection bin by the water fountain.**
- **Church Council will meet next Sunday. Please turn in all reports to Carrie by Tuesday, July 14th.**
- **Please join us on Saturday, July 25th, at Bruce's home, for our Annual Church Picnic. Details to come.**
- **We are looking for volunteers to help with the 50th anniversary events on Saturday and Sunday, September 12th and 13th. Please let Jeane know if you are interested.**