

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

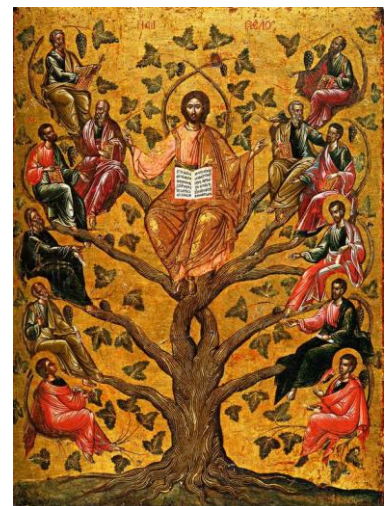
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Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist:



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 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:***

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

Hymnal #163

*O worship the King, all glorious above, O gratefully sing his wonderful love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.*

*O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.*

*The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree, And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.*

*Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.*

*Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end, Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.*

*O measureless Might, ineffable Love, While angels delight to hymn thee above,
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays, With true adoration shall sing to thy praise.*

*****Psalm: Psalm 138 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;

People: before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

Liturgist: I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things

People: your name and your word.

Liturgist: When I called, you answered me;

People: you made me bold and stouthearted.

Liturgist: May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord,

People: when they hear the words of your mouth.

Liturgist: May they sing of the ways of the Lord,

People: for the glory of the Lord is great.

Liturgist: though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly,

People: but the proud he knows from afar.

Liturgist: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;

People: you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.

Liturgist: The Lord will fulfill his purpose, for me;

People: your love, O Lord, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.

*****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: Almighty and merciful God, of whose only gift it cometh that thy faithful people do unto thee true and laudable service: Grant we beseech thee, that we may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally serve thee in this life, that we fail not finally to attain thy heavenly promises; 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 51:1-6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴“Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 11:33-12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹²I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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 sixteenth chapter of Saint Matthew beginning with the thirteenth verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Liturgist: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clark



Pulpit Hymn:

Lord, Speak to Me

Hymnal #538

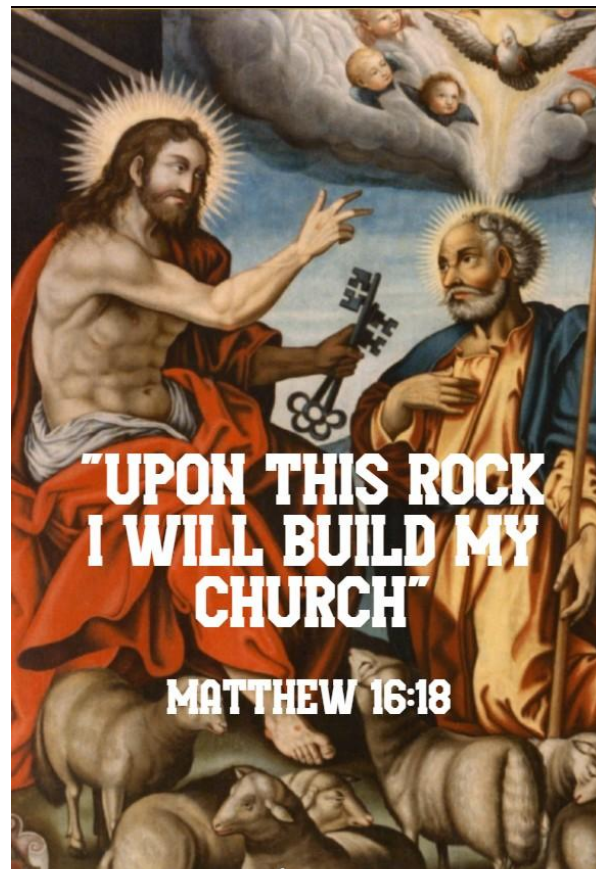
*Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In living echoes of thy tone;
As thou hast sought, so let me seek Thy erring children lost and lone.*

*O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.*

*O strengthen me, that while I stand Firm on the Rock, and strong in thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand To wrestlers with the troubled sea.*

*O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.*

*O fill me with thy fulness, Lord, Until my very heart o’erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word Thy love to tell, thy praise to show.*



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)***

Liturgist: 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:**

Pastor: 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:**

Built on a Rock the Church Doth Stand

Hymnal #151

*Built on a rock the church doth stand, Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land, Bells still are chiming and calling;
Calling the young and old to rest, Calling the souls of men distressed,
Longing for life everlasting.*

*Not in our temples made with hands God, the almighty, is dwelling;
High in the heavens his temple stands, All earthly temples excelling;
Yet he who dwells in heaven above Deigns to abide with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.*

*We are God's house of living stones, Built for his own habitation;
He fills our hearts, his humble thrones, Granting us life and salvation;
Were two or three to seek his face, He in their midst would show his grace,
Blessings upon them bestowing.*

*Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing;
Hither we come to praise his Name, Faith in our Saviour confessing;
Jesus to us his Spirit sent, Making with us his covenant,
Granting his children the kingdom.*

*Through all the passing years, O Lord, Grant that, when church bells are ringing,
Many may come to hear God's word Where he this promise is bringing:
I know mine own, mine own know me, Ye, not the world, my face shall see;
My peace I leave with you, amen.*

*****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	Rev. Joe Christina
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Norita Shipley	Debbie Stapf	Jimmy Beall
Ben Flynn	Rodney Perini	Carolyn Kelly	The Gray family
The Shriver family	Sharon Fraley		

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: Pastor Nigel Brown, Hope Lutheran Church, Hampton, VA

For our missionary work: Shiri Parish

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Clarksburg Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Maddie Day, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf, Jenna Perini, Gianna Clarke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Monday – In recess until August 31st.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – In recess until September 2nd.**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 20th.**
- **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 canned tomatoes for Damascus HELP during the month of August. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **Church Council will now meet on the 4th Sunday of every month. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 27th, after service.**