

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:



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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:***

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hymnal #397

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down!

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving spirit Into every troubled breast;

Let us all in thee inherit, Let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave,

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,

Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy precious love.

Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee!

Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*****Psalm: Psalm 103:1-12 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: Praise the Lord, O my soul;

People: all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Liturgist: Praise the Lord, O my soul,

People: and forget not all his benefits—

Liturgist: who forgives all your sins

People: and heals all your diseases,

Liturgist: who redeems your life from the pit

People: and crowns you with love and compassion,

Liturgist: who satisfies your desires with good things

People: so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Liturgist: The Lord works righteousness

People: and justice for all the oppressed.

Liturgist: He made known his ways to Moses,

People: his deeds to the people of Israel:

Liturgist: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

People: slow to anger, abounding in love.

Liturgist: He will not always accuse,

People: nor will he harbor his anger forever;

Liturgist: he does not treat us as our sins deserve

People: or repay us according to our iniquities.

Liturgist: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

People: so great is his love for those who fear him;

Liturgist: as far as the east is from the west,

People: so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

*****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: O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without thy succor, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; 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 Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

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

Anthem:

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Pastor: Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the eighteenth chapter of Saint Matthew, beginning with the twenty-first verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



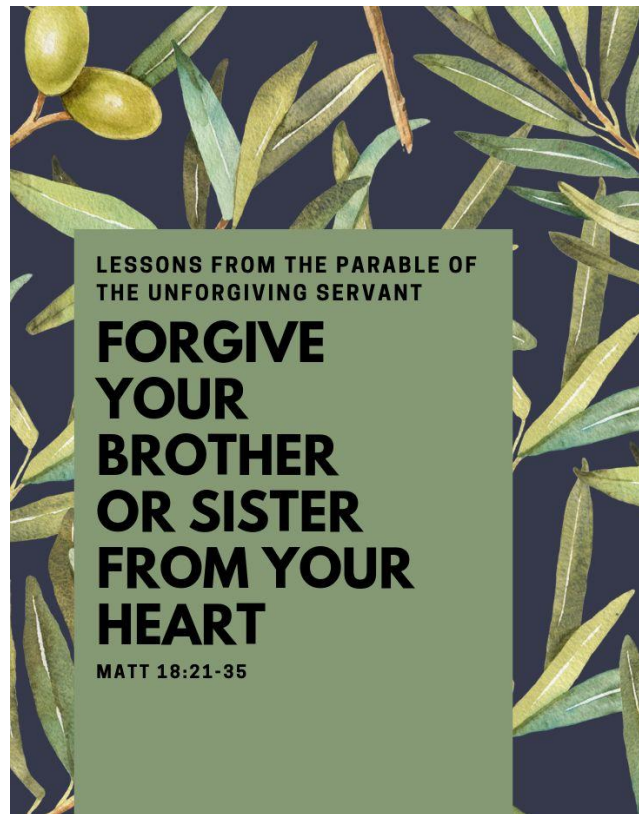
*I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all, and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus, To wash my crimson stains
White in his Blood most precious, Till not a spot remains.*

*I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in him;
He heals all my diseases, He doth my soul redeem;
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases, He all my sorrows shares.*

*I long to be like Jesus, Meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be, like Jesus, The Father's holy child.
I long to be with Jesus, Amid the heavenly throng,
To sing with saints his praises, To learn the angels' song.*

Sermon:

The Reverend Dr. Curtis Leins



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 Nicene Creed:**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

Pastor: Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

*****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 Preface: (responses are sung)**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

People: *It is meet and right so to do.*

*****Proper Preface:**

Pastor: It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God: And now do we praise thee, that thou didst send unto us thine only-begotten Son, and that in him, being found in fashion as a man, thou didst reveal the fullness of thy glory. Therefore, with Angels, and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

*****The Sanctus: (sung)**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of thy glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blesséd is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

*****The Consecration:**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also, he took the cup, when he had supped and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

*****The Eucharistic Prayer:**

Pastor: Remembering, therefore, his salutary precept, his life-giving Passion and Death, his glorious Resurrection and Ascension and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to thee, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we beseech thee mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and with thy Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, thy servants, and these thine own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who partake thereof may be filled with heavenly benediction and grace, and, receiving the remission of sins, be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all thy saints. And unto thee, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in thy holy Church, now and forever. Amen.

*****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 Agnus Dei: (sung)**

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

The Communion (If you are baptized, believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, have honestly confessed your sins, and believe that under the bread and wine Christ gives us his true body and blood, you are welcome to come to communion.)

*****Post Communion Blessing:**

Pastor: The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Blood strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.

People: *Nunc Dimittis* (Simeon's Prayer): (sung) Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou has prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 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.

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: (sung) And His mercy endureth forever.

*****Closing Prayer: (responses are sung)**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to thee, Almighty God, that thou hast refreshed us with this thy salutary gift; and we beseech thee, of thy mercy, to strengthen us through the same gift, in faith toward thee and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, thy dear Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*****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) The threefold Amen

A-men, A-men, A----men.

*****Closing Hymn:**

Son of God, Eternal Saviour

Hymnal #542

*Son of God, eternal Saviour, Source of life and truth and grace,
Son of Man, whose birth incarnate Hallows all our human race.
Thou our Head, who, throned in glory, For thine own dost ever plead,
Fill us with thy love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.*

*As thou, Lord, hast lived for others, So may we for others live;
Freely have thy gifts been granted, Freely may thy servants give,
Thine the gold and thine the silver, Thine the wealth of land and sea,
We but stewards of thy bounty, Held in solemn trust for thee.*

*Come, O Christ, and reign above us, King of Love, and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease;
By thy patient years of toiling, By thy silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Shame our selfish greed of gain.*

*Dark the path that lies behind us, Strewn with wrecks and stained with blood;
But before us gleams the vision Of the coming brotherhood.
Thou who prayedst, thou who willest That thy people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth thy will be done.*

*****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	Paul Beall	

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: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Augusta, KY

For our missionary work: CLC Blanket Ministry

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Potomac Valley Assembly of God

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 – 11 AM at Joe Flesch's home**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – 10 AM in the adult Sunday School room at Church**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School will resume next Sunday, September 20th at 9:30 AM.**
- **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 meats for Damascus HELP during the month of August. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **Please join us for a luncheon following service today.**