Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

God's Work. Our Hands.

Rev. Joleen Gleasman

Website: ChristLutheranVH.org

Twitter: @ChristLuthVH

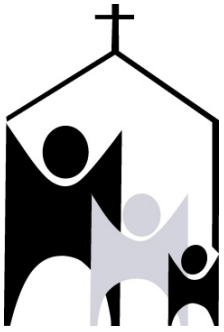
Facebook: /ChristLutheranVH

Church: 847-367-5787
ChristLutheranVH@aol.com

Preschool: 847-367-5791
info@PreSchool.ChristLutheranVH.org

Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org*)*

All Are Welcome – All the Time!



You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.

Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome,
regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

CHIMES

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS, THANKSGIVINGS

After chimes, Kathy Davis will take requests to add to the Prayers of Intercession,
and provide Pastor with the updated sheet.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit
that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

SONG: Kyrie Eleison, Setting 8 (“Lord, have mercy”), p. 184

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal
LINK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIfuw0iMILA&t=1s

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison every day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all.
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord…
Let us pray to the Lord!
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison every day.

That we may live out, your impassioned response,
to the hungry and the poor.
That we may live out, truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord.
Let us pray to the Lord!
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison every day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family.
For life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord.
Let us pray to the Lord!
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison every day.

For your Spirit to guide, that you center our lives, in the water and the Word.
That you nourish our souls, with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord.
Let us pray to the Lord!
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison every day.

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!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 103:8-13

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

READING – Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

– *Please stand as you are able* –

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW p. 172

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON: Rev. Joleen Gleasman

SONG: How Small Our Span of Life, #636

Verses 1, 2, 4; *Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
a single beat within the heart, the catching of a breath.
a drop within the ocean's deep, a grain upon the shore,
a flash of light before we sleep to see the sun no more.

> And yet our speck of life is spanned by your infinity:
> our tick of time on earth is caught in your eternity.
> While suns and stars spin endlessly through depths of cosmic space,
> while aeons roll and ages pass, you hold us in your grace.

We thank you, God, for kindling faith that lights our transient years,
illumining our pilgrimage through mists of doubt and fears;
for hope that see a life beyond the swiftly passing days;
for love, both human and divine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

Hear us, O God… ***Your mercy is great***

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
– *Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(Presider's book on altar)*

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 COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.* **All are welcome.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: Christ, Be Our Light, #715

Verses 1, 2, 5; *Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see…

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your Word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Christ, be out light…

Many the gifts, many the people. Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.

Christ, be out light…

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Thank you for your presence!
Thank you to Pastor Joleen Gleasman and Ben Dahlke for leading us in worship today!

Please enjoy refreshments and conversation.

We will also do a couple of quick service projects, as your time and interest permits – writing/drawing notes of encouragement for our supporting pastors, bishops and others; as well as assembling after school snack bags for our local pantries.

And please take a moment to greet and introduce yourself to our worship partners at South Lake Chinese Christian Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AFTER WORSHIP – God's Work. Our Hands.** – After worship, we will take a few moments in service efforts. We will pack after-school snack bags for the pantries as well as write/draw notes of encouragement. Please stay for a few minutes to take part in this special Sunday activity.
- **We Welcome South Lake Chinese Christian Church** – We continue to worship at 9:30 a.m. while South Lake offers education time; South Lake will worship after us. Please hold this partnership in your prayers that we may all worship, praise and serve as God intends.
- **PreSchool** – Keep the families and staff in your prayers. Programs starting at age 2.5. Learn more at PreSchool.ChristlutheranVH.org or email info@PreschoolChristLutheranVH.org
- **Meals in a Bag** – 2 gal ziplocks with all the nonperishable ingredients needed to make a hearty meal – bags and ingredient list/recipe cards available in the Narthex or on our website. We will provide these as needed and encourage everyone to have a couple to hand out.
- **Stock the Pantries! – Non-Perishables Needed.** Bring your donations of nonperishable food, paper goods, hygiene supplies, etc. and we will deliver to local pantries, which need all they help they can get. Also collecting fresh milk, eggs, meat, produce for specific families.Thanks!
- **Sue's Pantry** – Sue has moved her pantry to a space in Arlington Heights. We will continue to collect anything needed to keep a home and family clean. Special request for rice, pasta, Mac & cheese, tuna, canned chicken, and zip lock bags with after-school snacks.
- **Here to help.** Do you or someone you know need food or support, especially with the loss of benefits? Reach out to the church at ChristLutheranVH@aol.com or 847-367-5787**.**
- **Alert Whistles & Rights Cards** – On the bulletin table. To use or share as needed.
- **Donating to Victims of Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Drought, War** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at ELCA.org. There is also a link on our website under "WORK."
- **Scouting! – Keep our Scouts in Prayer** – Please keep the youth and adults in your prayers. Christ Lutheran is the Charter Organization for Pack 273 & Troop 273. Programs for girls and boys ages Kindergarten through high school, building skills, making connections and having fun. Younger kids: committee.chair@Pack273VH.org. For older kids, email committeechair@troop273vh.net. Thanks to Holly & Bill Jones and their volunteers for their efforts in leading the groups. Thanks for supporting our Pack/Troop 273!
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Know a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie! (https://loveinclakecounty.org/)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. (CoolMinistries.org)
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. Would you join with us in prayer? Send an email to be included on the prayer mailing list. The task is simple-but-powerful – when time permits, open the email and read/pray with us.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support our service, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, ChristLutheranVH.org. Thank you!