

Sunday, September 13, 2026



"how often should
I forgive?"

"Not **SEVEN** times,
but, I tell you,
**SEVENTY-
SEVEN**
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

**Christ's Lutheran Church
Murrysville, Pennsylvania**

"A Place to Believe, Belong, and Become"



Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming, Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.

ARE YOU VISITING? START HERE!

Welcome! If you are new to worship in a Lutheran church, this introduction will help guide you through our service. Here are some things to know!

There is a quiet space in the back of the sanctuary if you or your child needs less sensory input or a chance to stretch and move. There are also blue cloth bags with fidget toys and other activities in that space. Please return the bags and their contents (minus any artwork your child creates).

Restrooms (with diaper decks) and a nursery are down the hall on the right. The nursery is unstaffed but has a TV displaying the worship service.

General info:

- The prayers, responses, and service music are printed in this bulletin. Just follow along!
- Words for the longer songs (hymns) are in the red pew books. The hymn numbers are in the bulletin and look like this ELW #.
- All baptized Christians are welcome to come forward for Holy Communion. Children who haven't received Holy Communion may also come forward for a blessing. Please take an empty cup for wine or grape juice on your way forward. We serve both wheat and gluten-free wafers. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please let the Pastor know.
- Our Sunday morning service is livestreamed on YouTube. Your image may appear. Can't make it to worship? Find us here: <https://www.youtube.com/@christslutheranchurchmurry443>
- We do receive an offering or donation as part of the service. There is a QR code in the bulletin or an envelope in the pew.

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

Office: 412-795-1212

Church Office email: office@christsmurrysville.org

Website: www.christsmurrysville.org

App: Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

(Please silence your electronic devices)

PRELUDE

Instrumental

*Please use this time to silently prepare
your hearts and minds for worship*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF CONCERNS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand)*

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

L: If we say that 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 us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please take a moment in silence for confession.

L: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to love our neighbors. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way and truth of Jesus Christ. Amen.

L: Now hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. Yet, Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ remains in power for us. Christ prays for you and for me. In Christ we are a new creation. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

L: Let us now share the peace of Christ with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you always,

C: And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"My Lord, What a Morning"

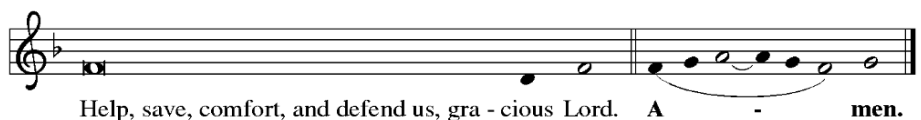
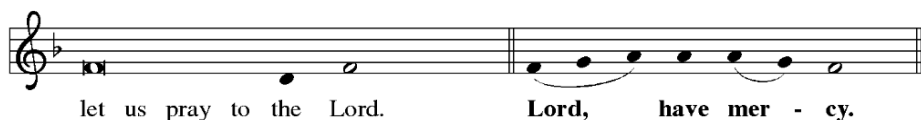
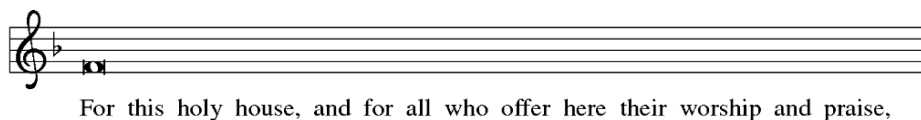
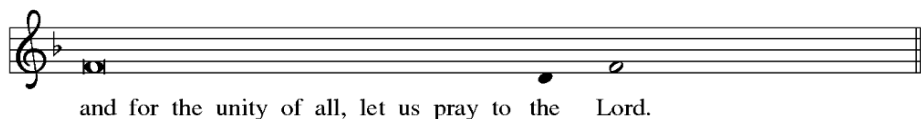
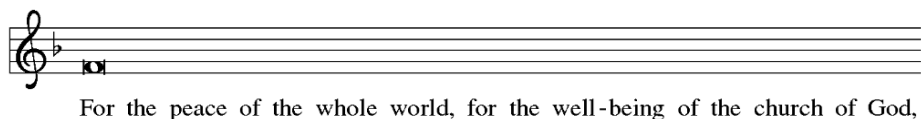
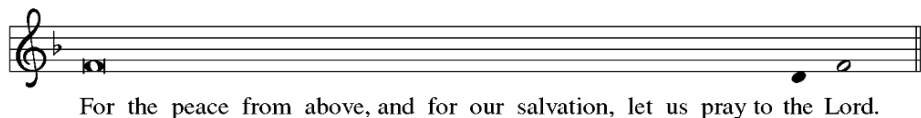
ELW #438

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: PSALM 103:1-13 *(please be seated)*

A: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**C: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits –**

A: who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

**C: who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

A: who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**C: O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

A: You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

**C: Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

A: you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**C: You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

A: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**C: As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

A: As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

SECOND 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE *(please be seated)*

Christine Weller

HYMN OF THE DAY *(please stand)*

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW #765

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(please stand)*

L: Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence

L: Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Sustainer of faith, we pray for Christ's Lutheran Church as it discerns your call for future ministries. Guide the leadership of the church to seek your vision first. Inspire everyone to share in the new thing God is doing. As the majority of council members have filled their terms, we pray that you will inspire members to serve in leadership positions. Be working in the heart and mind of the next pastor as you prepare them to lead this congregation. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: *Today we pray for:*

Karen & Tom Adams, Greg B., Randy Clouser,
Pearl Elliott, Joel Erwin, David Favero, Chuck G.,
Joseph Grabowski, Sr., Paul Graham, Peggy
Henry, James Holt III, Lisa Lehman, Tom M.,
John Magnus, Derwood Montgomery, Michael
O'Donnell, Jeff Pope, Betty Reagan, Paul Rizzo,
Sandi Shaffer & Kate Hall, Ron Spagna, Marianne Trainor, Sue
Werner, and the family and friends of Barbara Salenske



And for our church members and friends:

Micheal Gartland
Steve & Kristen Gestrich
Eric Gipson & Amy Lederer
Pastor Wayne & Laurel Gillespie

L: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

OFFERING *(please be seated)*

L: Your offering directly helps our church inspire people to live abundantly. Your gifts share the message of Jesus' love. They help our missions like:

Caring Hearts and Hands
Plum Food Pantry and Westmoreland County Food Bank
Our own Christ's Little Pantry

Your gifts also help us to keep the building inviting for our worship and for groups like AA, NA, Kindermusik, and Girl Scouts. Please give generously for all our ministries.

You can place your offering in the offering plate that is passed at this time in our service,

You can scan this QR code to our online giving page,

*You can use our app to send your offering,
or mail your offering to the church:*

*Christ's Lutheran Church
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15668*



THE OFFERTORY

Instrumental

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(please stand)*



We lift our voice-es,___ we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you, we are an

of-fer-ing,___ Lord, use our voice-es,___ Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

lives, they are yours, we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you._____

We lift our voice-es,___ we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you,

we are an of - fer - ing,___ we are an of - fer - ing.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

L: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in

the one body of Christ, anointed with the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Let us pray: Merciful God, we thank you for those who are gathered here – people whom you have made your own by water and the word in Baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold us in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite our hearts in love and service. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen

L: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church.

L: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe 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, 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.**

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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**

L: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in all of your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Let us now pray together as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.

THE BLESSING

- L: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**
- L: The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” *ELW #865*

THE DISMISSAL

- A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Pastor	Rev. Sue Washburn
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Steven J. Myers
Organist	Joshua Beck
Pianist	Nancy Finke Sheehan
Parish Administrator	Laura Vincenti

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you,
Christine, for
leading us in
worship this
weekend!



KIDS' SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION CLASSES



Scan the code to register your child for Sunday School (begins September 20th), and/or Communion or Confirmation Classes (both begin in October). Contact the office at office@christsmurrys ville.org or 412-795-1212 for more information

Sign up for the TAILGATE PICNIC on Kick Off Sunday, September 20th. There will be food, games, bingo and raffle baskets!

Signup sheets are at the Ministry Center in the Entryway or scan the QR code.

The main dish, hot dogs and chipped ham barbecue, will be provided by the church; we'd really appreciate it if you would bring a covered dish or dessert.



And, we hope you'll sign up **to donate a raffle basket**. That signup sheet is at our Ministry Center as well.

Bring your CLC spirit and let's Kickoff a great Fall season



**10 am
Worship on
Sunday,
Sept. 20th
followed
by our
Tailgate
Picnic**



Fall Kickoff is the start of fall programming at Christ's Lutheran. Grab your calendar so you don't miss anything!

- The church picnic is September 20th after 10 AM worship. We'll have all the traditions you know and love about the picnic. Bring a friend, too!
- We have faith classes for all ages that start at 9 AM each Sunday (Yes, there is coffee!), including a new class for parents who bring their kids to Sunday school.
- We are registering children for special First Communion and Confirmation classes.
- We have a craft show and bake sale coming up on October 3, 9-2. We are delighted to have so many vendors for our first show.
- Blessing of the Pets is October 4 @ 4. Bring a chair for this casual outdoor service.
- Finally, as part of the interim process, we have an online survey that we'd like all church members to fill out!

FAMILY ADVENTURE

faith for busy lives



Small
group
class on
starting
September
20th.



The Outreach Team is again partnering with the Plum Food Pantry to support their annual Coat Drive!

The sign-up sheet and tags will be available shortly.

Any questions, please contact Judy Bernardini 412-795-6769.



Christ's Lutheran Church's 2nd quarter financial report is available in the rack outside of the office.



FOCUS GROUPS



We need your thoughts on Christ's Lutheran Church!

Sign up to share at a small focus group to help us choose the next pastor!

Bonus opportunity!!!

September 23 @ 6:30 PM

***ONLINE ONLY**





Older

Wiser

Lutheran

Seniors Luncheon

Worship Celebration at 10 am

**Sunday,
October 11th
11:00 am**

Invitations have been mailed to CLC members aged 80 and older. Please contact the office if you did not receive yours:

office@christsmurrysville.org or 412-795-1212



CRAFT
Fair & BAKE SALE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 9 AM

Christ's Lutheran Church
5330 OLD LOGAN FERRY ROAD MURRYSVILLE 15668
CHRISTSMURRYSVILLE.ORG

ROUTE 286 NEAR HOLIDAY PARK
ACROSS FROM DAIRY QUEEN
INFO@CHRISTSMURRYSVILLE.ORG



Vendors
SCAN TO REGISTER

Our yarn works group, **Stitched With Love**, meets Tuesdays from 9 to 11 am in the downstairs social hall.

They make hats for cancer patients, baby blankets, prayer shawls, and other items that may be requested.

Feel free to bring your own project to work on. It's a time to be creative & enjoy one another's fellowship. For information, contact Leslie Sill at nonnasill@comcast.net.

Christ's Lutheran Church

Blessing of the Pets

October 4 4PM

Bring your furry or feathered friends for a time of fellowship in the parking lot of Christ's Lutheran Church.

You must maintain control of your pet at all times.

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15668



~~~~~  
Christ's Lutheran's partnership with our local **Lions Club** continues. To support their service work locally and abroad, the Lions accept donations of Cell Phones, Eyeglasses and Printer Ink Cartridges. Drop off your items in the wooden bins under the coat rack.

~~~~~  
THANK YOU for your donations to CLC's **Ronald McDonald House** pull tab project!

We're collecting aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Working with a local recycler, pop tabs from soda cans, soup cans, pet food, and other canned goods are turned into money to support RMHC's mission.

That money helps RMHC provide comfort, care and support for families with children who are sick.

You can help by depositing tabs you collect in the container in the church Entryway.

~~~~~  
**Our church office is open:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
**9 am-12:00 pm, 12:30 pm-2:30 pm**

*Please phone the church before coming to make sure someone is available to assist you: **412-795-1212***



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**September 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Keep our Ministry and Community in Your Prayers Each Day This Week*

### LITTLE PANTRY WEEKEND

#### **Sunday 9/13**

10:00 am

#### ***Our Council and their leadership of our church***

Sunday Worship

*live streamed at [christsmurrysville.org](https://christsmurrysville.org)*

7:30 pm

Narcotics Anonymous

#### **Monday 9/14**

8:00 pm

#### ***Those who quietly volunteer their time behind the scenes to support our church***

Alcoholics Anonymous

#### **Tuesday 9/15**

9:00 am

#### ***Those who are persecuted because of their faith in Christ***

Stitched With Love

#### **Wednesday 9/16**

6:30 pm

#### ***Our Support Team, who oversees our church's administrative functions and finances, and maintains our building and property***

Support Team Meeting

#### **Thursday 9/17**

#### ***For Sunday School teachers and all who teach children***

#### **Friday 9/18**

4:00 pm

#### ***The ongoing ministry of our Synod and the ELCA***

Scent Training for Dogs

### KICKOFF WEEKEND

#### **Saturday 9/19**

6:00 pm

#### ***Those who do not have health insurance***

Saturday Worship

#### **Sunday 9/20**

9:00 am

#### ***Our congregation, as we kick off our fall season***

9:00 am

Sunday School for Kids & Adults

10:00 am

Parent/Caregiver Small Group Class

11:00 am

Sunday Worship

7:30 p m

Tailgate Picnic

Narcotics Anonymous