

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org



July 26th, 2026	9th Sunday after Pentecost
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**We worship in-person and on-line at 9:00 am. There is a link on our website to join the on-line Worship Service through Zoom!
Stay safe and God bless!**

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

P: On this day of worship, we call on God's name,

C: and hear our own invitation to work for the good of all.

P: Gathered with neighbors and strangers, we call on God's hope,

C: and discover that a lifetime of service seems but a few days.

P: In this place of praise and prayer, we call on God's love,

C: and receive that grace which is as old as creation,

yet as fresh as each morning.

Opening Song: Are You Washed in the Blood/I'll Fly Away

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Blessing The Summer Camp Kids

Faith Song: One Thing Remains

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he

walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who

did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of.....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

Tessa Ancona

Sermon

Pastor Ken Gibson

Hymn of the Day: Be Thou My Vision (ELW #793)

Prayers of Intercession

A: "God of grace", ... **C: "Hear our prayer"**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Invitation: Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed around, you may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, or send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051** or give online at www.joyfulharvest.org

Offering Prayer

Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has 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.

Invitation to Communion: *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

Communion Songs: Holy and Anointed One/Father I Adore You

Prayer After Communion

Sending

COMMISSIONING

P: At Joyful Harvest Church,

C: our mission is growing together for Christ.

P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:

C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.

SENDING

P: Go forth to proclaim God's constant love.

C: We will live out that love for everyone we meet.

P: Go forth to unfold God's Word to the world.

C: We will gather up the tears of those around us, as we offer the healing grace of Jesus.

P: Go forth to tell stories of hope and peace.

C: We will spread the Spirit of life all around us.

Sending Song: I Walk By Faith

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL) @ 4:30pm:

Can't make it on Sunday?? Come to our new Saturday night Liturgy (SNL) to see what you're missing. Join Pr. Ken on Saturday nights (see schedule below) at 4:30 pm and enjoy a shortened version of the following Sunday's service. We will be using our new hymnals!



Wed. "Weed & Feed" – July 29th @ 4:00pm-6:00pm

Wear your "Holy" jeans, bring a pair of gloves and roll up your sleeves! Help is needed to keep the garden looking good. Watch your bulletin and keep your ears open during announcements to find out the next date. "Weeding" will start at 4:00pm and we will have a light "feeding" at 5:00pm. Please sign up on welcome table, be sure to include phone # in case of cancellation.



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 28	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 28	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Jul 29	"Weed & Feed" Gardening	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Jul 30	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Aug 01	NO - Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	N/A
Sun. Aug 02	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Aug 08	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.
Sun. Aug 09	Giving Closet	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Sat. Aug 15	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.
Wed. Aug 19	Council Meeting	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sat. Aug 22	Feed My Starving Children	10:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Wednesdays as Announced – **"Weed & Feed"**

Aug 22 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

Aug 29 – **NO - Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

Sept 5 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

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July 26, 2026
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parable of the kingdom
Monday	1 Kings 3:5-12	Solomon’s prayer for wisdom
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God’s love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Genesis 29:15-28	Jacob marries
Thursday	Psalm 103:8-14	The Lord’s wonderful love
Friday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus the great high priest
Saturday	Psalm 119:129-136	The glories of God’s law
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
Romans 8:26 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and strengthen us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for daily food; as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God’s face shine on you with kindness. (Psalm 119:135)



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think of a person who you consider to be wise. What makes them wise?
- When you are going through tough times, do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 and 1 Kings 3:5-12.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating the good from the bad. There are details in these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. Jesus asked the disciples if they “understood all this,” and without hesitation they simply replied, “Yes” (Matthew 13:51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here. Whereas, Solomon simply wants wisdom and is praised by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12), yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes became split into two realms because of Solomon’s failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded, with humility, that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us “with sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26).

Discuss: How has faith in God helped you during difficult times?

Pray: **The Lord’s Prayer.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help or support someone who is struggling with a health issue?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things (Matthew 13:31-32). Growing the church involves being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Think or talk about how you have told your faith story or passed on Christian rituals and traditions to others. How might you sow seeds of faith that grow into something great?

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to grow your kingdom and take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught us. Amen.**



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