

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org



Sept 6th, 2026	15th 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: We gather here, where God will teach us:

**C: so we may learn to be more compassionate,
so we may be taught how to be more loving.**

P: We gather here, where Jesus will teach us:

**C: the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge,
the language of hope so we may speak to all.**

P: We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,
from our loneliness, our struggles, our service,

**C: so we might know how to share grace,
so we would learn to welcome all to this Table.**

Opening Song: Made to Worship

Confession & Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us
from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to
others. 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
of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no
condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Faith Song: I Lift My Hands Up

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever
you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If

I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you,...

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children’s Message

Pastor Ken Gibson

Sermon

Pastor Ken Gibson

Hymn of the Day: Again and Again

Prayers of Intercession

A: “Hear us, O God”, ... **C: “Your mercy is great”**

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: Unfailing Love

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 now to the people who are overwhelmed by despair.

C: We will take the hope which has been given to us and share it with all.

P: Go now to those who are at odds with neighbors.

C: We will offer the peace and reconciliation which God has poured into our lives.

P: Go now to those who are the most vulnerable in our world.

C: We will bring the healing, the grace, and the love of our God.

Sending Song: Our God Saves

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: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

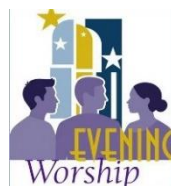
C: Thanks be to God.

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.

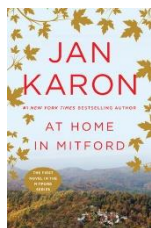
Last weeks! Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL) @ 4:30pm:

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



Luau & Pig Roast – Sunday Sept. 13th @ 11:00am-??:

Bring family and friends to join us for a "Traditional" Hawaiian Luau and pig roast! Come in your favorite Hawaiian attire. We will be digging a pit and burying the pig to roast overnight. After service, we will dig the pig up and enjoy this amazing feast. Sign-up to bring a dish to pass – if you have a Hawaiian favorite, we would love to try it.



Joyful Readers Book Club is back! Sat. Sept 26th @ 9:00 a.m.:
Do you like to read, are you looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark in this fellowship opportunity. The next meeting will be Sat, Sept 26th @ 9:00a.m. They're reading "At Home In Mitford" by Jan Karon. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!

Chicken/Pulled Pork Corn Roast! Sat. Oct. 3rd @ 4-6 p.m.

We invite you to an "all you can eat" feast of Chicken, pulled pork and corn on the cob. There will be a 50/50 raffle. If interested, please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. Drinks will be available for \$1.00 each. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and can be purchased ahead of time or at the door. **See Ray for your tickets!**



Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Sep 08	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Sep 08	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed.Sep 09	Yoga with Robin	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Thur.Sep 10	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Sep 12	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.
Sun. Sep 13	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Sep 13	Luau (pig roast) Rally Day	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed.Sep 16	Yoga with Robin	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Wed.Sep 16	Council Meeting	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sat. Sep 19	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Sept 23 – Yoga with Robin
 Sept 26 – Joyful Readers Book Club
 Sept 26 – Yoga with Robin
 Sept 26 – **LAST** - Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)
 Oct 03 – Chicken/Pulled Pork Corn Roast

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Resolve conflicts in the church with mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God’s judgement seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Philippians 4:1-3	Paul encourages the Lord’s followers
Thursday	Romans 5:6-11	Being acceptable to God
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	Prayer of an innocent person
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one.” Matthew 18:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, teach us your ways that we may live together in peace and see Jesus in the face of others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in the midst of violent storms and droughts we encounter in the world, we thank you for this gift of food and for those who have brought it to us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to love your neighbor as yourself.



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:

- What do you do when your relationship with a neighbor, family member, or someone else is in conflict?
- Jesus says we are to pursue others with love and grace. How can knowing this help you to resolve differences in relationships that are difficult?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 18:15-20.

All relationships experience conflict, even relationships in the church. Jesus is aware of this and lays out a plan of action: out of love, be direct. It is the way of life of the people of God. This is announced by Paul in Romans 13:10: *"Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."* Being right is not good enough. Having your own way is not good enough. Be loving, be merciful, and pursue what is right; face conflict through a personal conversation to resolve the issue. But if the person who has hurt you does not repent, this is not an excuse to treat them badly. Treat them as Jesus would treat a Gentile or tax collector. He pursued them with his love. Jesus is present in all our relationships, even the stressful ones. We are to seek out relationships with love and mercy.

Discuss: When you have been wronged or hurt in a relationship, how did you handle it? How might Jesus' words in Matthew 18 impact how you respond?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, when I am with others, remind me that you are present.**

Strengthen us to love one another anew each day. Amen.

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 resolve a hurtful relationship you have with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* (Matthew 18:20). Think or talk about people in your life at home, school, work, in your family, and in your neighborhood. Write their names down on a sheet of paper and next to each name, a word or words that describe your relationship with each one. How is Jesus present in those relationships? Light a candle to symbolize Jesus' presence within you.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, help us to love others, live together in peace, and see your face in others. Amen.**



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