

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org



Sept 13th, 2026	16th 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: Disciples and doubters, faithful and unfaithful,

C: we belong to God, who welcomes us all.

P: Followers and those who fall behind, open-hearted and close-minded,

C: we belong to the Lord, who is always patient with us.

P: Reconcilers and troublemakers, foolish and fearless,

C: we belong to the Spirit, who encourages us in every moment.

Opening Song: Thank You, Lord

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: Who Am I

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ 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?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ '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. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ 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. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God’s benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ 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

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ 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, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ 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.....

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: ²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins.....

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: You Are Mine

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: Nothing But the Blood/Jesus Friend of Sinners

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: Whether we believe or whether we struggle, we are God's.

C: Let us go out to welcome the doubters and disciples around us.

P: Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

C: Let us go to embrace all who have been abandoned by the world.

P: Whether we are brave or shake at the knees, we are the Spirit's.

C: Let us go to encourage our siblings and neighbors who struggle.

Sending Song: Turn, Turn, Turn

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.

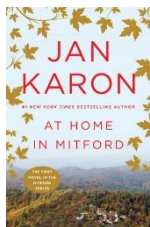
Announcements

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.



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 15	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Sep 15	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed.Sep 16	Yoga with Robin	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Wed.Sep 16	Council Meeting	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Thur.Sep 17	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Sep 20	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Sep 13	Luau (pig roast) Rally Day	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed.Sep 23	Yoga with Robin	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Sat. Sep 26	Joyful Readers Book Club	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Sat. Sep 26	Yoga with Robin	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sat. Oct 03	Chicken & Corn Roast	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun. Oct 04	Giving Closet	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Nov 07 – Veterans Spaghetti Dinner - Tentative

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The people of God forgive.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge another
Wednesday	2 Chronicles 7:12-18	The Lord appears to Solomon
Thursday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Friday	John 8:1-11	Jesus intercedes for a woman
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God’s goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases. Psalm 103:2-3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we praise you for your desire to forgive; help us to love and forgive as we are loved and forgiven through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you a merciful heart.



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:

- When someone says something hurtful to you, how do you react?
- How does God's merciful forgiveness make a difference in our relationships?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 18:21-35.

Jesus presents a very unreal story to make a very real point. In Jesus' day, each talent was worth more than 15 years of work and a denarius was one day's wage.

Therefore, one slave owed over 150,000 years of income while the other owed one hundred days of wages. The differences are extreme to make a point. God's forgiveness of us is wildly out-of-this-world and wonderful. It leads the follower of Jesus Christ to sing or pray Psalm 103 that begins, "*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name*" (v. 1). A concrete way to praise God is to "*forgive your brother or sister from your heart*" (Matthew 18:35) and do so again and again and again. Or, as Jesus suggests, do you want to consider the consequences of not showing a little forgiveness to others? That lack of forgiveness Jesus says, would destroy your life.

Discuss: How does this story challenge the way you think about forgiveness, especially God's forgiveness?

Pray: **Merciful God, give me faith to remember how kind and generous you are to me and to praise you by being kind and forgiving to others through Christ our Lord. 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 extend a word of forgiveness to someone who has hurt you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The theme this week in the Bible readings is forgiveness. Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think of someone who needs your forgiveness. Write a note to that person. Take a moment to read your note silently. Hold your note as you pray the Lord's Prayer. Pause for thought when you pray, "*forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,*" then finish the prayer. Choose whether or not to send the note to them.



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