

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

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www.joyfulharvest.org



October 4th, 2026	19th 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 come because we want to know God,
who seeks to shape us as faithful people.

**C: Not that we already are,
but we strive to be the community of grace.**

P: We come because we want to know Jesus,
who plants justice deep in our hearts.

**C: Not that we always do,
but we seek to welcome each person.**

P: We come because we want to know the Spirit,
who shines hope on all people.

**C: Not that we always are able,
but we seek to share the light of peace in our world.**

Opening Song: I Lift My Eyes Up

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: Wonderful Cross

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in

order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that.....

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who...

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

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: Eat This Bread/God Will Make a Way

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: We will go now, as faithful people, so others might know God.

C: We will seek to invite others into this community of grace.

P: We will go now, as seeds of justice, so others might know Jesus.

C: We will seek to welcome all who have been rejected by the world.

P: We will go now, to be lights of hope, so others might know the Spirit.

**C: We will seek to illuminate the shadows
of brokenness with peace and life.**

Sending Song: I Will Follow

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.

Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Oct 06	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Oct 06	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Oct 08	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Oct 10	Memorial Luncheon – Steven Russell	10:30-2:00 p.m.
Sun. Oct 11	Sunday Worship – Pastor Appreciation Day	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Oct 11	Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sun. Oct 25	Reformation Sunday – Wear “RED”	9:00 a.m.
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Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

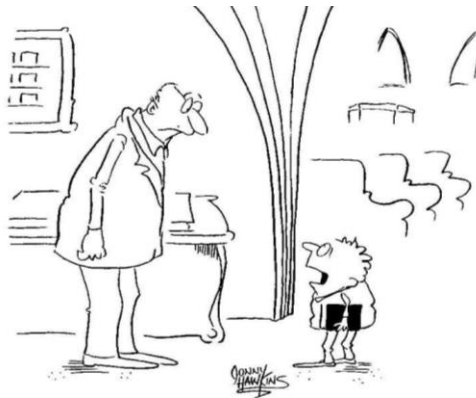
- Nov 07 – Veterans Spaghetti Dinner
- Nov 15 – Thanksgiving Potluck – after worship
- Nov 25 – Thanksgiving Eve Service w/pie fest
- Nov 28 – Hanging of the Greens
- Nov 29 – 5th Annual Soundtrack of Christmas

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"I slept in church because I'm striving
to be more like God, and on the
seventh day He rested."

OCTOBER 4, 2026
NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Faith in Christ gives us confidence.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	2 Peter 3:14-18	Final exhortation
Thursday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul’s instructions to Timothy
Friday	John 14:1-7	Jesus the Way to the Father
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel’s deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[A]nd be found in him [Christ], not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. **Philippians 3:9 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God’s face shine on you. (Psalm 80:7)



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 values and qualities do you look for in a friend?
- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are “good people.” We really don’t appear to get it. We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ’s death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi. He points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be “*blameless*” (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as “*loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*” (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why bad things happen to good people. Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This theology of the cross sees life in death, sees joy in suffering, and sees hope in despair. Paul presses “*on to make it my own*” (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation.

Discuss: How does your faith in Christ free you to experience suffering with hope?

Pray: **Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them 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 be a good friend to someone by caring for their needs?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us.

Pray: **Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the “heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Amen.**



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