Welcome to Worship at

Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
Office: 847-497-4JOY (4569) – Cell: 815-861-9554
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org



November 15th, 2026	**25th Sunday after Pentecost**

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: Before there was any time,
C: there was God.
P: When we wandered the wilderness,
C: God built a way for us.
P: When we lived in exile,
C: our homes were built by God.
P: When we are overwhelmed by life,
C: God unknots the tightness in our shoulders.
P: When we seek to serve faithfully,
C: God provides the opportunities.
P: When tomorrow comes,
C: we find God awake and waiting for us.
P: When time ends,
C: there will still be God.

Opening Song: Friend of God

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our holiness over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C: Amen.

Faith Song: Now Thank We All Our God (ELW #705)

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD
has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will

search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." [13] Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. [14] The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. [15] That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, [16] a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the…….
A: Word of God, Word of Life
C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12
[1] Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**
[3] You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**
[5] you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
[7] For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
[8] **Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
[10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
[11] Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
[12] So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to

surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message **Tessa Ancona**

Sermon **Pastor Linda Winkelman**

Hymn of the Day: Offering

Prayers of Intercession

A:"God, in your mercy",...**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 o**r 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: Gratitude/Awesome God

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 with God into the world.
C: We will journey with our friends and neighbors,
with our families and strangers.
P: Go with Jesus to serve faithfully.
C: We will seek to confront injustice;
we will bring healing to those who are broken.
P: Go with the Spirit to share peace.
C: We will embrace those forgotten by the world;
we will share our gifts with everyone we meet.

Sending Song: You Never Let Go

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 in peace. Encourage one another.
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.

Poinsettias* – Order Yours *Now thru Dec 6th: As we celebrate the birth of Christ, help us fill the Sanctuary with the beauty of Poinsettias. After Christmas, take it home or give it to a friend. See insert in your bulletin to order yours today!

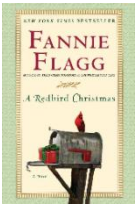




Hanging of the Greens - Sat. Nov 28th @ 9:00 a.m.:
Join us as we decorate the sanctuary in preparation for the Advent Season. We will be putting up the tree, hanging wreaths and garland. The more hands the better!

Soundtrack of Christmas! Sun. Nov 29th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.:
Do you have a love for Christmas Carols? This is the place to be. Join in as our Choir Leaders, Jeff & Kim, sing some of your favorites. From old to new and lots in between. Is there a special carol you like to hear? Signup on the sheet in the Narthex, and they will do their best to make it happen. There will be cookies & coffee/punch/hot chocolate!





Joyful Readers Book Club – Sat. Dec 5th @ 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. They're reading *"A Redbird Christmas"* by Fannie Flagg. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!

Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	**Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Nov 17	**Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Nov 17	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Nov 18	**Mat Yoga with Robin**	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Thur. Nov 19	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Nov 21	**Chair Yoga with Robin**	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 22	**Sunday Worship**	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 22	**Council Meeting** - **NO** - Faith Formation Class	10:45 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Nov 28	**Hanging of the Greens**	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 29	**5th Annual Soundtrack of Christmas**	2:00-4:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec 02	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec 05	**Joyful Readers**	9:00-10:00 a.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Dec 09 & 16 – **Holden Evening Prayer Service**
Dec 19 **– Cookie Exchange @ JHC**
Dec 24 **– Christmas Eve Service**
Jan 17 **– Annual Meeting**

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NOVEMBER 15, 2026
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

The importance of encouraging one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**Matthew 25:14-30**	**Parable of the talents**
Monday	**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**	**Judgement of Judah**
Tuesday	**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**	**Encourage one another**
Wednesday	**Romans 1:8-15**	**Prayer of Thanksgiving**
Thursday	**Joshua 1:1-9**	**God's commission to Joshua**
Friday	**Philemon 1:4-7**	**Philemon's love and faith**
Saturday	**Psalm 90:1-12**	**God is eternal**
Sunday	**Matthew 25:31-46**	**The sheep and the goats**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. ***1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Gracious God, we thank you for the body of Christ that helps us when life is difficult and our faith is weak. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Lord God, you who make the earth fruitful, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our bodies and encourages our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with faith, love, and hope. (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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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:

- How does encouragement from others help you?
- Why do you think Christians need support and encouragement from one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Good times and hard times can happen—and change—rather quickly. Daily life is fragile. Life experiences can change dramatically with a phone call. What is constant is the need to care for one another and build up the community of faith. There are important connections between this reading and the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. God has gifted us to use our vocation, our calling in life as a child of God, to do God's work in the world. If we do not do this and ignore or hide our calling, the work of God in the world suffers. Instead, we are to trust in a God who acts; we are not to fall prey to complacency or speak and live as though God is not present and active in our lives and in history (Zephaniah 1:12). Paul reminds the people that they—and we—are to reach out to others, especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. We are to do so with encouragement to live each day in faith, love, and hope because of the God who acts and has given us *"salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

Discuss: How are you encouraged by others to live your faith and how do you encourage others?

Pray: **God of grace, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses that walks alongside us to strengthen us in faith, love, and hope through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who would benefit from an encouraging word while going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A *talent* in Jesus' day was money. Jesus tells a story about three servants (Matthew 25:14-30). One hid his money and never used it. In our day, we think of a talent as a natural ability to be good at something and God given. If we are good at something, we should not hide our talent but use it to the best of our ability. Think or talk about what talent(s) you have.

Pray: **Dear God, help me to use my talents, whether big or small, so that others may know of your love. Amen.**

Joyful HARVEST LUTHERAN CHURCH

5050 N Johnsburg Road
Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org
(847) 497-4569