

Christ Lutheran Church

Germantown, Maryland

Epistle To the Saints

May, 2026

**Sunday School at 9:30 AM &
Service at 10:30 AM each Sunday**

Sunday, May 10th—Mother's Day

(Baby Bottle Campaign begins)

Sunday, May 17th—Church Council Meeting/Last day of Sunday School

Sunday, May 24th-The Day of Pentecost

Monday, May 25th—Memorial Day

*We are collecting peanut butter (Medium size) and jelly for
Damascus HELP through the month of **May**.



When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-2

Welcome!

To view the livestream of our services, go to the church Facebook page (Christ Lutheran Church AALC) or go to our website (clcmd.org) and click the link at the bottom of the first page. Once on the FB page click the "videos" tab. Bulletins for our services are on the website.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

AUDREY STAPF: *Thank you, Lord, for your continued healing in Audrey. Thank you for your constant presence and assurance.*

MERYL BENENATI: *Lord, we praise and thank you for your continued healing in Meryl.*

HELEN GIBSON: *We thank you Father, for your continued healing in Helen.*

REVEREND DR. CARY LARSON: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for Reverend Larson. We pray that you keep him in your care and bless his work in Your name.*

PASTOR SCOTT YOUNT: *Lord, we ask that you bless Pastor Yount and his wife, Lena, as they faithfully serve You and spread the word of the Lord.*

FOR OUR CONGREGATION: *Father, we ask for your merciful goodness in providing us with the wisdom, discernment and courage to do your will. We thank you for providing each of our members, visitors, friends, and family. Each and every one is a true blessing.*

FOR OUR CHILDREN: *Lord, keep each of them strong in you each day. Protect them and guide them in the plan that you have for each of them.*

FOR OUR PASTORS: *By the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, please uphold and help them stand firm in the truth of Your gracious word.*

FOR OUR SEMINARY STUDENTS: *Father we ask that you be with Chris Clarke as he prepares to join the ministry.*

FOR THOSE SERVING AWAY FROM HOME: *Father, please guide them in Your mercy and bless them with the fullness of Your love.*



Christ Lutheran Church AALC

Our Facebook page is looking great! Lots of wonderful information about our church, congregation, and news. Every week the service's video is posted. AWESOME!



Like us on Facebook!



We are collecting peanut butter and jelly for Damascus HELP during the month of May.



christlutheranofgermantown.org

We encourage you to provide Jeane with your comments and things that you think would add additional value to the site.



Emphasizes faith as a gift of grace rather than personal achievement.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Remembering Bob Petersen



Our dear friend and faithful member Bob Petersen went home to be with our Lord at 5am on Wednesday April 29, 2026 after a long and painful battle with bone cancer.

Bob had a difficult life. Many problems were from his own bad choices. But after years of struggle he had yielded himself to the Lord, allowing the Lord to change him, and to work in his life. He gave up alcohol and was dry for more than 20 years before his death. He found companionship in the Church. Bob provided many repairs to keep our church humming. He did electrical work, painting, and kept a keen eye on all aspects of our church property.

In worship, as our Liturgist, Bob did more than read the morning lessons for the service, he guided the Acolytes in their task and offered thoughts on various practices of our worship. In past years he also used his musical talent with our worship team in providing special music for our services.

Bob's spirit became more united with the Lord in the last year of his life. He was in a lot of pain but he said that even in the mists of the pain he felt the peace and presence of the Lord. He rejoiced in the sacrament of Holy Communion when he was able to be with us and when Vicar Chris took it to him in the hospital. While he was at the Medstar Hospital in DC a few weeks before his death, he said that nurses tended to gravitate to his room. His spirit was visible even in his sick bed.

Bob Petersen has left us a legacy of a man redeemed by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. He suffered much and overcame much. He was not perfect, sinful in nature as we all are, but he was willing to yield his life to the Lord and allow Him to do His cleansing work. Bob will be missed, but we rejoice with him in his freedom from pain and his presence with our gracious Saviour.

A Memorial Service will be planned and announced at a later date.

-Pastor Irvin Stapf

In the past we have included articles that have been of important spiritual and temporal use for you to consider.

I often find that Breakpoint commentaries from The Charles Colson Center are very timely and important. I

submit this recent one to you for your interest. Pastor Emeritus Stapf

Bringing Back the Bible

By: John Stonestreet and Dr. Timothy D. Padgett

The Bible has been the book that has held together the fabric of Western Civilization. ... The civilization we possess could not come into existence and could not have been sustained without it. – H.G. Wells This quote opens a new documentary, *Off School Property*, which premieres in theaters on October 23. The film aims to correct the record on one of the most misunderstood aspects of America’s storied history: the separation of church and state. Specifically, the film attempts to convince Americans that it is not illegal to teach the Bible to public school kids.

Off School Property was produced by the team at LifeWise Academy and highlights something many Americans do not know. As the film website states: While the Bible was being removed, an obscure 1952 Supreme Court ruling paved the way to bring it back. This solution has been sitting right under our noses for 70 years, and it allows students to study the Bible—legally—during the public school day.

The goal of LifeWise Academy is to expand Bible instruction to as many of America’s 50 million public school kids as possible, using a network of buses, off-site class space, and a growing number of trained teachers. In addition to the logistical challenge, the most difficult task is to correct the false assumption that there is no place for God or the Bible in government-run schools. It is an assumption based on the enduring myth that the freedom of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment is really freedom from religion.

This interpretation relies on a phrase from Thomas Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptists, the first reference to “a wall of separation between Church & State.” But this interpretation of The First Amendment and Jefferson’s letter is exactly backwards. In the vision of America’s Founders, religious freedom is not about keeping religion out of government but keeping government out of religion.

By the mid-twentieth century, this interpretation was replaced by hostility for religion. People were expected to leave their faith outside the voting booth, outside the courtroom, and, most notably, outside the schoolhouse door. When Madalyn Murray O’Hair pushed for Bibles to be removed from public schools, she did not appeal to “neutrality.” Rather, she declared, “We are Atheists. As such, we are foes of any and all religions. We want the Bible out of school because we do not accept it as being either holy or an accurate historical document.”

Ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims. American students have been told for generations that life has no meaning, that truth is an illusion, that moral claims are impositions of power, that they are animals, and that God is a matter of personal preference. In the *Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis argued against this approach to education, which he called making “men without chests”: In a sort of ghastly simplicity we remove the organ and demand the function. We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful.

Off School Property corrects the record about the separation of church and state as applied to America’s government-run schools. In 1952, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that teaching the Bible during the school day was, in fact, legal, if it was privately funded, conducted off school property, and done with parental permission. LifeWise Academy has built a national model of launching and resourcing Bible education to public school students during school hours. The LifeWise model is “plug and play” and has been implemented in over 150 school districts across the country.

Off School Property premieres in theaters October 23. Visit lifewise.org/offschoolproperty for more information and to find a theater near you that will be airing the film.



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Christ Lutheran Church
of Germantown

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