

Christ Lutheran Church

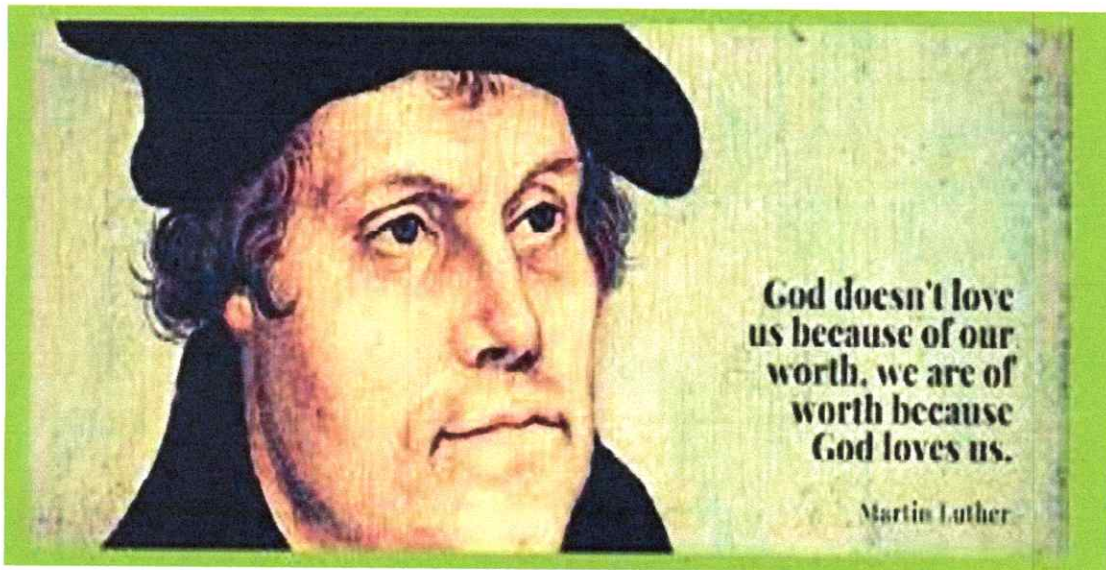
Germantown, Maryland

Epistle To The Saints

October, 2026

9:30 AM Sunday School - 10:30 AM Services

- ❖ Sunday, October 4th Holy Communion
- ❖ Sunday, October 4th Refreshments hosted by Helen Gibson
 - ❖ Monday, October 12th-Columbus Day
 - ❖ Sunday, October 19th Holy Communion
- ❖ Sunday, October 25th-Church Council Meeting
 - ❖ Saturday, October 31st Reformation Day
- ❖ Sunday, November 1st-Daylight Saving Time Ends
- ❖ We are collecting Soups; dry or canned for Damascus HELP through October



"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
-Ephesians 2:8-9

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.

REVEREND DR. CURTIS LIENS: Heavenly Father, we thank you for Reverend Liens and his wife Debbie. We are grateful that they celebrated our 50th Anniversary with us. We pray that you keep them in your care and bless their work in Your name.

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.

VICAR CHRIS: Lord, we ask that you bless Vicar Chris and his family as they faithfully serve You.

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 CAROLYN SHRIVER: Father, please comfort Carolyn with Your mercy and bless her with the full healing of Your love.

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



“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” – Martin Luther..

This quote highlights the importance of hope and perseverance. No matter how uncertain our future may seem, we should continue to invest in our lives and our community.



Like us on Facebook.

Christ Lutheran Church AALC
Lots of wonderful information about our church, congregation, and news.

christlutheranofgermantown.org

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

Website

*We are collecting soups; dry or conned for **DAMASCUS HELP** during the month of October.*



--Pastor Irvin Stapf

Anniversaries - Looking in Two Directions

Anniversaries are great occasion to look back over the years viewing, sometimes with amazement, all the events that have been packed into those years. There have been good times and those lesser so. They have all been the background and foundations of where we are today. But what is it that we are looking at?

First, we acknowledge that we are Christians. That places a framework around all that we are and do. We can look back in satisfaction to people who have been a part of our fellowship, as well as ministries and programs that have gone well. Over 50 years there have been many. Above all we are looking at the hand of God opening and closing doors, guiding, and providing, shaping and nurturing. We look back with thanksgiving at God's gracious hand. Things would not have happened apart from His grace. That adds a dimension of worship to our anniversary because remembering draws us closer and more fully into the life of our Redeemer.

Then we look forward. We are looking into the unknown. We have plans, desires, and hopes, but we are not prophets. We must look forward in faith. We are undergirded by the same truth we have seen in looking backward. The God who graciously worked in us for 50 years is still active, still the same God. We live personally and congregational with our Lord Jesus' promise that He will never leave or forsake us. We walk forward in the same trust that has seen us through 50 years of blessings.

In the process of all these years, Almighty God is working in each of our individual hearts to shape us into people useful in His Holy Kingdom. We rejoice in all that we share in this world, but we are reminded that we are living not for this life only. We are living in and for the Glory of God's Kingdom now and forever.

May God continue to bless you and your family as your serve Him In Jesus.



The American Association of Lutheran Churches



Office of the Presiding Pastor

The Rev. Cary G. Larson, D.D., D.M.

September 8, 2026

Dear Saints of Christ Lutheran Church,

"Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy." — Psalm 33:1–3

God has given your congregation so many reasons to "sing joyfully to the LORD." I think of how He has continually opened His hand and satisfied the needs of this congregation, and how He has kept Christ Lutheran in the one and true faith through the work of His Spirit.

But the best reason you have to "praise the LORD"? For 50 years the members of this congregation have heard the greatest message of all: forgiveness for every sin through Christ Jesus' perfect life, His passion and death on the cross, and the sure and certain hope of eternal life because of His glorious resurrection and ascension. That message has been faithfully proclaimed. It has come through many baptisms, through the faithful distribution and reception of the Lord's Supper, and through the simple preaching of the Gospel. What a blessing to so many for so many years.

One cannot begin to measure the impact of that Gospel, which has brought comfort to those who mourned the death of a loved one, guidance to those who were getting married, strength to those who wrestled with sin, and quiet confidence to those who struggled through hardship. For 50 years the message of God's forgiving and saving love has produced blessings too many to count.

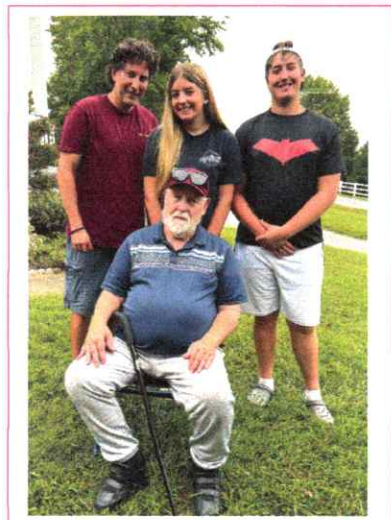
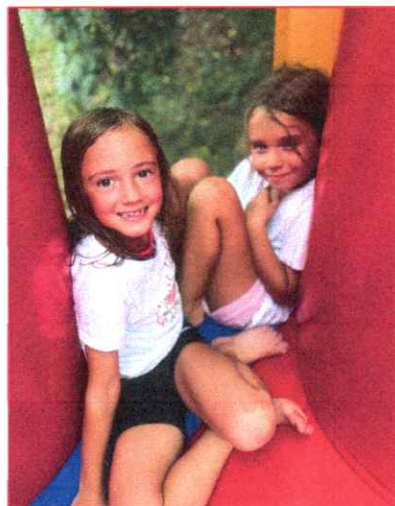
On this very special day The American Association of Lutheran Churches join with you in giving thanks to God for His goodness and grace, and we join you in asking Him to extend that same goodness and grace for many years to come.

I am your servant in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson
Presiding Pastor
The American Association of Lutheran Churches

THE PHOTO GALLERY 50th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday



THE PHOTO GALLERY 50th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday

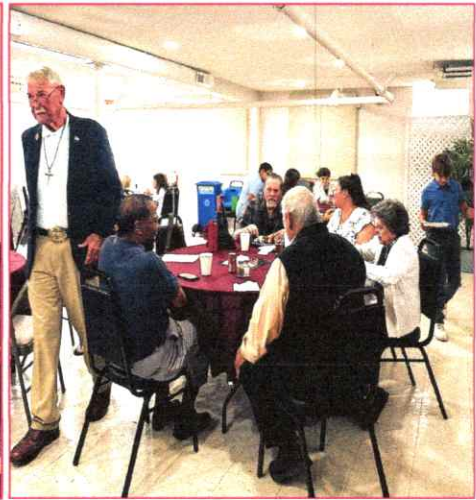
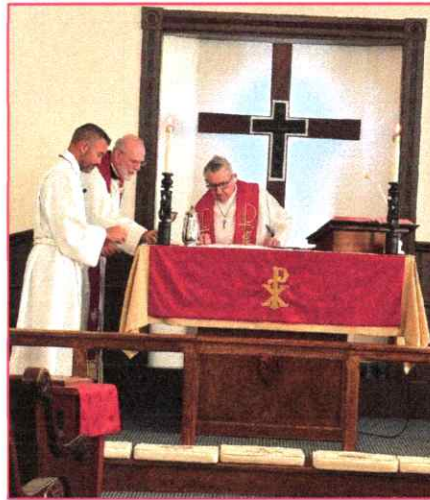


**We Praise God for
giving us perfect
weather; the friends
for fellowship and
for sharing
memories of our 50
year history and
making new ones.**



THE PHOTO GALLERY 50th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday



**With gratitude for
Pastor Liens and
Debbie to join us in
the celebration.**

**Food, Fellowship and
a grateful
congregation for
God's Blessings!**



--Pastor Irvin Stapf

AN OBSERVATION : IS THIS REALLY AN ADVANCE?

An article in our local paper touts the benefits of data centers in communities. It emphasizes the revenue they bring in, lowering the taxes for residences. It shows data centers rejuvenating dying communities. It says that now data center technology actually uses less water and adds power to the grid. The article went on for columns showing the positive values they provide.

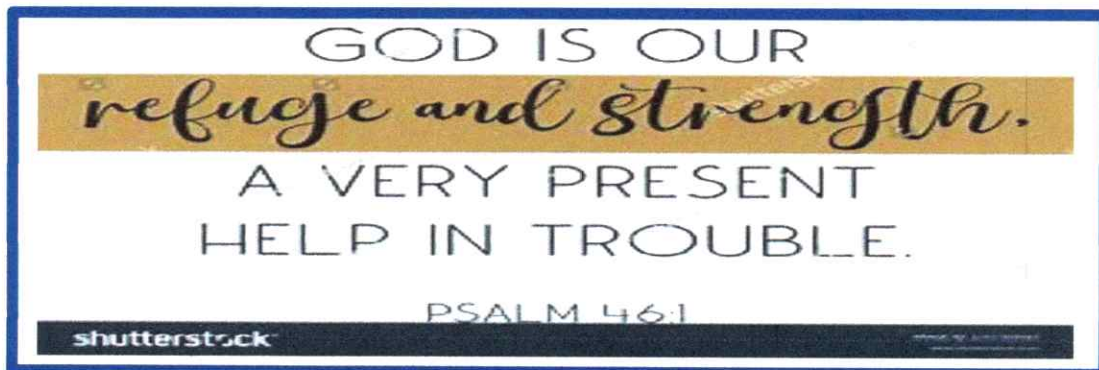
It is nice to look at great economic benefits, but is that all of the story? Data centers are the heart of Artificial Intelligence. It, too, can be touted for positive benefits, but again one must look deeper than outward benefits to longer term physical, moral, and even spiritual effects.

We note that data centers store more and more of the thoughts of mankind past and present. Yet, according to Scripture, against which Christians are to measure all things, mankind is sinful in his basic nature. Therefore, the information in the data centers cannot rise above man's nature. The raw data depends upon the algorithm of its human creator. While providing information, it cannot provide wisdom. Wisdom has its foundation in God.

It is clear that AI is causing a vast change in society. Not always for good. General AI, Open AI, or whatever it is called, that seeks to reason on its own, has been seen to get out of the control of those who have created it. Even more, some developers claim that AI can provide a means of entering contact with other unknown dimensions. This can lead to demonic influence.

We don't know what the future holds. We do, however, know that our meaning, our values, and our purpose in life is governed by a greater standard than monetary value, and length of physical life. It is from this standard that we must view all that is presented as progress.

We have a Lord who is above all and who knows the outcome of all events. If we take Scripture seriously we understand that we are in a spiritual warfare with an adversary seeking to destroy mankind. This should raise our awareness. Whether it is data centers or the latest wonder drug, we need to look beyond immediate benefit and ask if this really is of God. Does this improve or support the purpose for which we were created?



- *From Vicar Chris Clarke*

The Four Types of Prayer: The A.C.T.S. Method (from SmallCatechism.org)

Prayer is simply talking with God, much like having a conversation with a close friend or family member. Your prayers should reflect your genuine needs, desires, and your relationship with Him. To help structure your prayer life, we use the **A.C.T.S.** method. Each letter represents a distinct type of prayer.

A – Adoration

- **Definition:** Praising God for who He is, His character, and His greatness.
- **Synonyms:** Worship, praise, reverence, honor.
- **Scripture Focus:** Read **Psalm 103** to see an example of praise and adoration.

C – Confession

- **Definition:** Honestly admitting our sins, mistakes, and shortcomings to God and asking for His forgiveness.
- **Scripture Focus:** Read **Psalm 51** to see an example of a prayer of confession.

T – Thanksgiving

- **Definition:** Expressing gratitude to God for what He has done, including His blessings, provision, and grace in our lives.
- **Scripture Focus:** Read **Psalm 107** to see an example of giving thanks.

S – Supplication

- **Definition:** Asking God to supply what we need (think of it as a "supply-cation") according to His good and gracious will. This includes praying for ourselves and others (intercession).
- **Synonyms:** Petition, asking, pleading, requesting.
- **Scripture Focus:** Read **Psalm 27** and list three things the Psalmist asks God for.

IN REMEMBRANCE

IF you have someone that you would like remembered by adding a brass nameplate to the memorial, please provide Pastor Stapf with the following: The cost is \$5.00.

NAME
Date of Birth
Date of Death

CHRISTUS VICTOR

LUTHERAN

CHURCH

Christ won.

We win.

1201 Hope Mills Road

Fayetteville, NC 28304

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cvlc1201@embarqmail.com

christusvictor.church

September 4, 2026

Christ Lutheran Church
23425 Davis Mill Road
Germantown, MD 20876

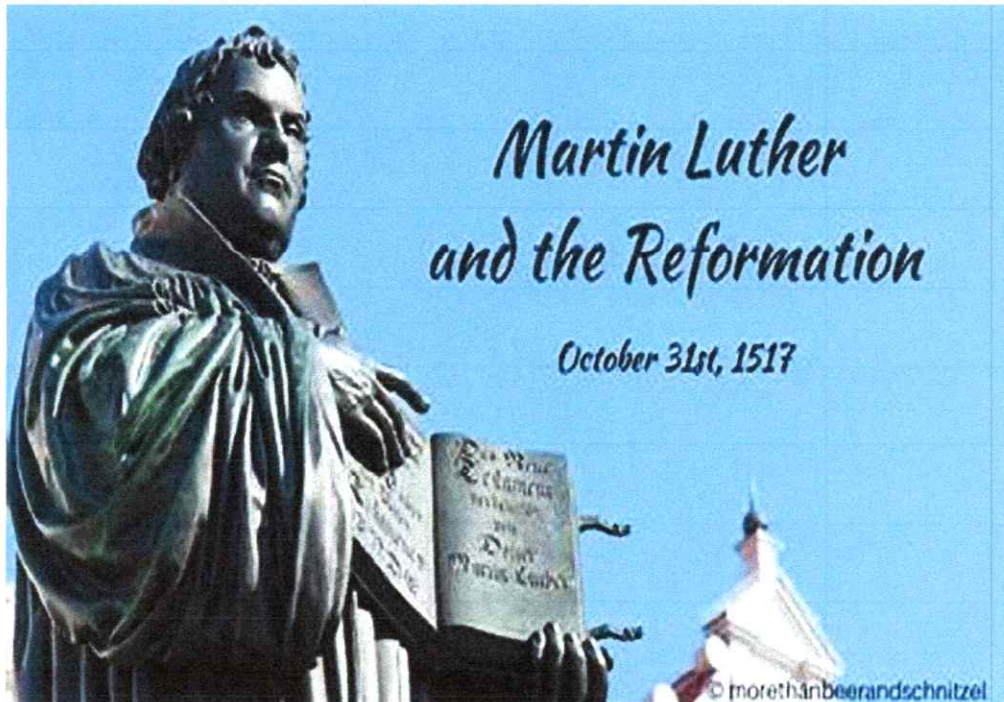
Brothers and sisters of Christ Lutheran Church,

We all rejoice with you as you celebrate your 50th anniversary as a church. God has certainly sustained and kept you through those 5 decades. I regret that I am unable to be there for the joyous occasion, but all of the Eastern Region of the AALC is thankful for your faithfulness and your commitment to the gospel. As the National Home Mission Developer, we are fiercely committed to supplying you with Word and Sacrament ministry. And God willing, a called and installed Pastor. May the Trinity continue to bless you as you remain faithful to the church and the community in which you are planted.

In the Blessed Name of Jesus,



Pastor Joe Christina, Eastern Regional Pastor of the AALC



Epistle To The Saints

October 2026

Christ Lutheran Church

23425 Davis Mill Road

Germantown, MD 20876

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