

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**23425 Davis Mill Road**  
**Germantown, Maryland 20876**

*A Congregation of the American Association of Lutheran Churches*



**Our Mission Statement**

*We strive to be worthy witnesses to the world.*

**At Christ Lutheran, we strive to lead lives worthy of our calling as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in God's world.  
(Ephesians 4:1)**

**Web Site:** [clcmd.org](http://clcmd.org) or [christlutheranofgermantown.org](http://christlutheranofgermantown.org)

**Facebook:** Christ Lutheran Church AALC

**Email:** [clcedargrove@outlook.com](mailto:clcedargrove@outlook.com)

**Church Phone:** 301 972-5529

**Church Secretary:** Carrie Shriver Perini  
Mobile phone: 240 397-3498  
Email: [perinicarrie@gmail.com](mailto:perinicarrie@gmail.com)

**Pastor Emeritus:** Irvin Stapf  
**Pastor:** Vacant  
**Vicar:** Chris Clarke  
**Liturgist:**



## *The Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*May 17, 2026*

*During the music before the service let us join in a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

*Please stand as you are able where marked\*\*\**

*Greetings and Announcements*

*Prelude*

*\*\*\*The Confession and Absolution*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(A time of silent reflection and self-examination.)*

**Pastor:** Most merciful God.

**People:** We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

**Pastor:** Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen. Thanks be to God.

*\*\*\*Opening Hymn:*

*How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

*Hymnal #406*

*How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole, And calms the troubled breast;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul, And to the weary rest.*

*Dear Name! the rock on which I build, My shield and hiding-place;  
My never-failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.*

*Weak is the effort of my heart, And cold my warmest thought;  
But, when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.*

*Till then I would thy love proclaim With every fleeting breath;  
And may the music of thy Name Refresh my soul in death.*

**\*\*\*Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10 (read responsively)**

**Liturgist:** <sup>1</sup> May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;

**People:** may his foes flee before him.

**Liturgist:** <sup>2</sup> As smoke is blown away by the wind, may you blow them away;

**People:** as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.

**Liturgist:** <sup>3</sup> But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

**People:** may they be happy and joyful.

**Liturgist:** <sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds— his name is the Lord

**People:** and rejoice before him.

**Liturgist:** <sup>5</sup> A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,

**People:** is God in his holy dwelling.

**Liturgist:** <sup>6</sup> God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing;

**People:** but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

**Liturgist:** <sup>7</sup> When you went out before your people, O God,

**People:** when you marched through the wasteland,

**Liturgist:** <sup>8</sup> the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,

**People:** before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

**Liturgist:** <sup>9</sup> You gave abundant showers, O God;

**People:** you refreshed your weary inheritance.

**Liturgist:** <sup>10</sup> Your people settled in it,

**People:** and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor.

**\*\*\*The Gloria Patri: (sung)** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**\*\*\*The Kyrie: (responses are sung)**

**Liturgist:** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People:** *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**Liturgist:** Christ, have mercy upon us.

**People:** *Christ, have mercy upon us.*

**Liturgist:** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People:** *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**Liturgist:** Glory be to God on high!

**\*\*\*Gloria in Excelsis: (sung)** *And on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen*

**\*\*\*Collect:**

**Liturgist:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And with thy spirit.*

**Liturgist:** Let us pray.

**People:** Almighty, everlasting God, make us to have always a devout will towards thee, and to serve thy Majesty with a pure heart; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**The Scripture Lessons:**

**First Reading: Acts 1:12-26**

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup> "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup> For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup> And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup> "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and "Let another take his office."

<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." <sup>23</sup> And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**Liturgist:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19**

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And

"If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

<sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

**Liturgist:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Alleluia: (sung)** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**Liturgist:** Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the seventeenth chapter of Saint John beginning with the first verse.

**\*\*\*People (sung)** Glory be to thee, O Lord

**Gospel Lesson: John 17:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup> For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

**Liturgist:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**\*\*\*People: (sung)** Praise be to thee, O Christ

**Children’s Sermon:**

*Vicar Chris Clarke*



*If thou but suffer God to guide thee, And hope in him through all thy ways,  
He'll give thee strength, what-e'er betide thee, And bear thee through the evil days;  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love Builds on the rock that nought can move.*

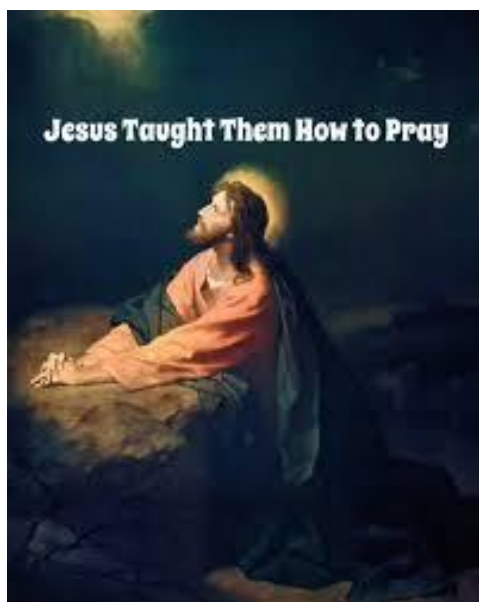
*What can these anxious cares avail thee, These never ceasing moans and sighs?  
What can it help, if thou bewail thee, O'er each dark moment as it flies?  
Our cross and trials do but press The heavier for our bitterness.*

*Only be still, and wait his leisure In cheerful hope, with heart content  
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure And all discerning love have sent;  
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known To him who chose us for his own.*

*Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving; In all thy labor faithful be,  
And trust his word; though undeserving, Thou yet shalt find it true for thee:  
God never will forsake in need The soul that trusts in him indeed.*

**Sermon:**

**Vicar Chris Clarke**



***The Sermon Response: (sung)*** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

**\*\*\**Passing of the Peace***

**\*\*\**The Apostles' Creed:***

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

**\*\*\*The General Prayer: (after each petition)**

**Vicar:** Lord in your mercy.

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**\*\*\*The Lord's Prayer:**

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, For ever and ever. Amen.

**\*\*\*The Prayer Response: (sung)**

*Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

**\*\*\*The Benediction:**

**Vicar:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**People: (sung)** *A-men, A-men, A---men.*

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn:**

***It Is Well With My Soul***

**P&P #146**

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea-billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul. (Chorus)*

***It is well...with my soul...It is well, it is well with my soul.***

*Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul. (Chorus)*

*My sin— oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't—My sin—not in part, but the whole—  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Chorus)*

*And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend. "Even so"— it is well with my soul. (Chorus)*

**\*\*\*The Postlude**

### ***Prayers and Praises:***

For our church leaders:

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carey G. Larson  
Assistant Presiding Pastor: Rev. Roger Twito  
AALC Administrator: Rev. Dean Stoner  
Secretary Pastor: Rev. Joe Marsh  
Home Mission Developer: Rev. Joe Christina  
National Office Manager: Bonnie Ohlrich  
Seminary President: Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper  
Seminary Administrator: Duane Kleven

|                    |                 |                            |               |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Robin Nicholson    | Hope Johnston   | Dorothy Foster             | Brian Gray    |
| Rebecca Robinson   | Bill Trall      | Harvey Jester              | Justin Serene |
| Fred Carlson       | Norita Shipley  | Debbie Stapf               | Carrie Perini |
| Ben Flynn          | Meryl Benenati  | Rodney Perini              | Mary Neighly  |
| Rev. Joe Christina | Carolyn Shriver | The family of Bob Petersen |               |

For those that have suffered loss due to hurricanes, fires, and other natural disasters

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke,  
Bethany Hueter, Ethan Stone, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Augusta, KY

For our missionary work: Care Net Frederick

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Montgomery UMC

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Maddie Day, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Men's Bible Study: Monday – 11AM at Joe's home.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – 10 AM at Church.**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.**
- **You may continue to watch the Sunday services (10:30 AM) via Livestream on Facebook – Christ Lutheran Church AALC. The Bulletins for the services are on our website: [clcmd.org](http://clcmd.org) or [christlutheranofgermantown.org](http://christlutheranofgermantown.org). The video of every livestream is on our Facebook page. You can access the livestream by clicking the link at the bottom of the first page of our website or by visiting the Facebook page directly. Be sure to click on the 'videos' tab.**
- **We are collecting peanut butter (medium jars) and jelly for Damascus HELP during the month of May. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **We are asking members if they would like to make a donation to support the purchase of a used handicapped van for Debbie Stapf. Her Parkinson's Disease has progressed, and she can no longer travel in a conventional vehicle. Should you choose to make a donation, please write a check to Christ Lutheran – Please note on MEMO line "for Debbie Stapf". We will mail her a check (from the Church) this week (the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>). Your donation will be noted on your annual statement. Thank you!**
- **We are collecting change for Care Net of Frederick. Please take a baby bottle and return it with cash/check by Father's Day, Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. We encourage the kids to do "chores for change" so they may participate as well.**