



The 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 23

September 6, 2026

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering

The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, reassuring that God's desire is reconciliation. Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. Jesus lays out a path to reconciliation, not to exclude people but to use community to heal and restore. In response we gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation. As our society celebrates Labor Day and the waning days of summer we honor the gift of work and rest, giving thanks for all who strive for safe work conditions, living wages and just treatment of all who labor.

We welcome you, whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

*Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book and are numbered at the top of each hymn. We will celebrate Holy Communion today – all are welcome, and directions are included after the invitation to the Table. If you have trouble coming forward, or need gluten free bread and wine, there are element cups near the door for you to use. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!*

Changes and additions to the prayer list are published every Sunday in the announcements. Please share your prayer concern with Pastor, or Cindy Carper, if you would like it included on the prayer list. Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God,

Blessed be God forever, Amen.

Called by the Holy Spirit and seeking God's abundant grace,

let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins.**

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
our sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #641, ALL ARE WELCOME



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

Refrain
 Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

The grace of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence. The Prayer of the Day is offered as we join in our hearts.*

Holy God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. help us labor in your name for the good of all
 and the blessing of creation and rejoice in all the gifts you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
 Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

THE FIRST LESSON is from Ezekiel, the 33rd chapter. (Ezekiel 33:7-11)

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ *Silence* +

PSALM 119 is read responsively.

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me. Amen.**

THE SECOND READING is from Romans, the 13th chapter. (Romans 13:8-14)

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence, then, please stand, in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #174



THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. (Matthew 18:15-20)

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

The Alleluia Repeats. Following, please be seated.

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

THE HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #1000, GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS (NEXT PAGE)

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:

build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!

rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,

feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.

Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,

shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
 Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Empowered by the Spirit and trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us pray for a world in need.

*A brief silence. We offer our prayers for the church, our community, neighbors and nation. Each petition concludes: '...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**'. A time to offer our own petitions aloud or in silence follows the invitation '...for what else shall we pray'. The prayers conclude:*

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Meal

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

Feel free to step out of your pew! Following the peace, please be seated.

OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS / ANTHEM

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In-House the offering is collected. If you are worshipping remotely, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creating God: **The fields and forest, sea and sky are the work of your hands
and we are blessed by their bounty. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and a joyful thing to give you thanks O God...

Pastor offers the Eucharistic prayer; we join in our hearts. The prayer concludes:

...as Jesus taught us:

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.

AGNUS DEI: O LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God - come to the Table,
for all is now ready. **We shall come with joy, alleluia, amen!**

Please be seated.

*We believe Jesus Christ is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation. The elements are offered with the words: 'The Body of Christ given for you' and 'The Blood of Christ shed for you'. The recipient may respond "**Amen**".*

Those online are communed, then the musicians. The congregation follows by the organ side, then the pulpit side. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Host from Pastor. Then move towards the side aisle to receive the Wine by intinction, dipping the Host into the cup, and returning to the pew by the side aisle. Take your time – be in prayer, sing, pray as you come to the Table. The hymn during communion is ACS 981, All Who are Thirsty.

Leader All

All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. All who are hun - gry, come here and eat. All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. There's e - nough for all.

Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979
Music: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY, Brian Wentzel
Text and music © 2014 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

When all have communed, the Table is cleared. Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *a brief silence*

We give you thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,
in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated for Mission & Ministry Announcements.

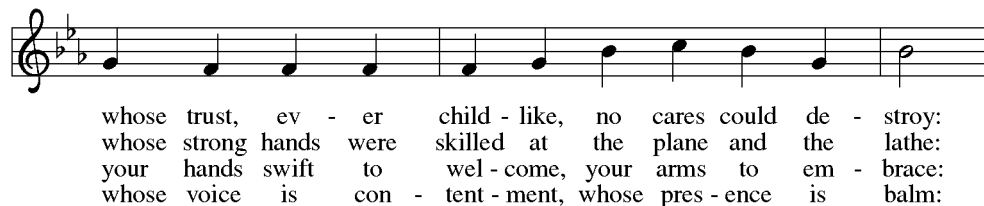
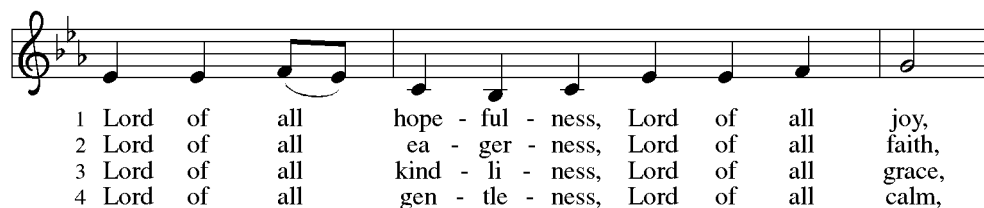
Sending

Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.

THE BENEDICTION

The Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

OUR SENDING SONG is hymn ELW #765, LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS



Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.
Used by permission

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd, Pipersville PA 18947

215. 766. 8730 office 267. 362. 8129 parsonage

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor

the people of Christ Church, ministers

Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary

Mrs. Kimberly Campbell, Council President

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion. ELW is Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Propers of the Day Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. 'O Lamb of God' text © Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on the Agnus Dei Music: Tune: Land of Rest, Public Domain. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress License, A-F #5429-L.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns not in the public domain reprinted and streamed by permission in accord with licenses OneLicense #A-711138 and CCLI #1475937.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to YouTube and our website (www.christpipersville.org).

THE SEPTEMBER WEB SITE AND TODAY'S BULLETINS are sponsored by Amy Zearfoss and Debbie Davis in loving memory of our beautiful mother Gail Zearfoss.

GREETERS: James and Cindy Carper

LECTOR:

FELLOWSHIP: Kim Campbell

WE WELCOME Louise Gerdelmann as our organist this morning and thank her for her musical leadership.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in today's announcements, the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

GREETERS: We need volunteers to welcome everyone to worship on Sunday mornings and distribute bulletins. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to select a week that's convenient for you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline for submitting news items for the October/November edition of Christ's Call is next Sunday, September 13th. News articles may be placed in Cindy's mailbox or sent by email to the church office.

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD hosts are needed. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

LECTORS: Volunteers would be appreciated to read the lessons each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board & copies of the lessons are available at least a week in advance.

CEMETERY FUNDRAISER: The cemetery committee will be setting up a table at the Tinicum UCC yard sale on September 12th. No tours will be offered this year and instead of a silent auction they will sell yard sale items valued at \$5.00 or more due to limited space. Items may be brought to church this Sunday, September 6th and given to Steven Gruver. Please see Steve with any questions.

THE PALISADES AREA CROP HUNGER WALK is scheduled for September 20, 2026. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board or contact Kim Campbell for more information, to volunteer to walk, or to help with the event.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board for your convenience. There are openings for bulletin sponsors in September.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR Sunday School teachers for our all-in-one class held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month beginning in October. You can sign up on the Sunday School bulletin board at the top of the stairs at the parking lot entrance doors for one or more Sundays and lessons can be picked up in advance. Please see Cindy Carper with any questions.

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased after worship (see Cindy Carper or Kim Szymanowski) or during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. *(Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.)* Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,600 in 2025 and \$2,200 to date in 2026.

The Week of September 6th at a Glance

Sun. 09/06 The 15th Sunday after Pentecost
 9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
 10:30AM Fellowship Period
 Happy Birthday, Jason Swope!
 Mon. 09/07 Labor Day, Office Closed
 Happy Birthday, Patti Leichter!
 Tues. 09/08 7:00PM Council Meeting
 Wed. 09/09 11:00AM Ensemble Rehearsal
 Thur. 09/10 7:00AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study
 Fri. 09/11 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
 Sat. 09/12 Happy Birthday, Holly Hanisak!
 Sun. 09/13 The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
 9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
 10:30AM Fellowship Period
 October/November Newsletter Deadline

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

In September 2026, let us pray for...

Joseph Apgar (AF), Tait Blethen (AF), Jim Campbell (H,R), Pr. Caron & Family (Pr/C), Pr. Bill Coleman (Pr/C), David Cook (H,St), Cory Cox (AF), ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry (Pr/C), Debbie Ann (H,R), Phyllis Glasker (H,R), Pr. Ginny Goodwin (Pr/C), Paul Gruver (NH), Sonja Hadland (NH), Mark Kallenbach (H,St), Bev Maddux (H,R), Doris Maddux (H,St,R), Miles (H,R), Bishop Bryan Penman (Pr/C), Emma Roberson (H,R), Bunnie S (P), Bailey Sanford (pregnancy), Thomas Schumacher (AF), Thomas Shiiba (AF), Stephen Spadaccino (AF), and Rich Weidner (AF).

Schools, students and staff as they begin a new school year (especially Palisades, Pennridge, Quakertown, Central Bucks, Ava, Nate, Allie, Gryffyn, Alithia, Maddie, Izzy, Anna, Emeline, Noah, Allison, Kaylie, Hanna, Emily, DJ and Cindy).

Those who mourn:

The family and friends of Patricia McGroary (esp. grandchildren Jen & Jeremy Carr & family), Harry Bohlman, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Davenport, Roy Clement (esp. wife Joanne, son Mike Clement, Nick, & Pastor Caron), Jackie Menagh, Betty Hager Blatz (esp. Hager/Blatz families), Stephen Reinard Sr. (esp. Jane, Stephen Jr. & Blake), Justin Kling (esp. DJ Kling/Livezey families) and Butch Wood (esp. Point Pleasant Fire Co. mourning the loss of Justin & Butch).

AF: Armed Forces, H: Healing, P: Peace/Patience, R: Recovery, St: Strength, M: Mourning, W: Wisdom T: Thanksgiving, NH: Nursing Home, HB: Home Bound, Pr/C: Pastors/Church Professionals

Please consider visiting, writing or calling these people who need the support of this faith community. If you know of others for whom you would like the congregation to pray, please notify the church office, 215-766-8730. Let us pray also for anyone besides the ones listed above, who may have some special need or desire.