

**Welcome to Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Welcome: Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

Worship: *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kid's bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages. Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type. Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

Land Acknowledgement

We, the congregation of Lord of Life Lutheran Church acknowledge and honor the Peoria, Bodwéwadmí (Potawatomi), Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówin, Kaskaskia, and Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) peoples, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this morning, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN As We Gather at Your Table ELW 522

- 1 As we gather at your table,
 as we listen to your word,
 help us know, O God, your presence;
 let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 Nourish us with sacred story
 till we claim it as our own;
 teach us through this holy banquet
 how to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2 Turn our worship into witness
 in the sacrament of life;
 send us forth to love and serve you,
 bringing peace where there is strife.
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion
 to forgive as you forgave;
 may we still behold your image
 in the world you died to save.
- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
 other guests to share that feast
 where triumphant Love will welcome

those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual
mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us
everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and
salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

All are seated

Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

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?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

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.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

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.

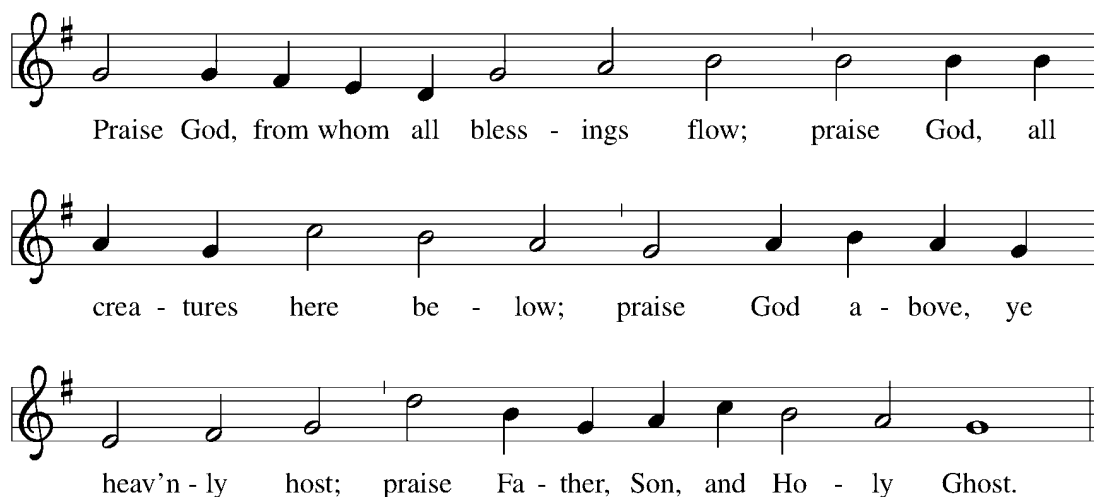
¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are comfortable



Alleluia. In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,
entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. *Alleluia.*
(2 Cor. 5:19)

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

SERMON

Pastor Christina Montgomery

HYMN OF THE DAY

Brother

The Brilliance

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. We pray especially for Margie, Nancy, Linda, Lee Ann, Jenna, Art, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alones*

OFFERING AND PRAYER

The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

God of creation,
 you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
 All blessings are from you;
 make us generous with what we have.
 Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
 in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
 today and always.
Amen.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us “*SING*” the prayer that 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

COMMUNION

All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.

We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.
Amen

- 1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

- 2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

- 3 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

- 4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Lector

Pianist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Ray Silhan III

Art Kardatzke

Nick Tangorra

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Connie Allekian

Marilynn Sells and Debbie McNichols

Alex Kerfin

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

Announcements

9-6-2026

Wine and Candles this month are provided by **Marilynn Sells** for the **September Birthdays**.

Flowers today are provided by **Art and Janet Kardatzke**.

Rummage Sale Join us for our Rummage Sale this Friday and Saturday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM!

Come browse treasures, household goods, and surprises of every kind. Every purchase supports the ministries of our church and the community we serve. Stop by, shop a little, and enjoy the fellowship!

PRESALE ALL MEMBERS OF LORD OF LIFE AND LOVING WORD CAN PARTICIPATE IN PRESALES TODAY STARTING AT 11 AM.

Lunch Bunch We will meet at Public Landing, 800 West 8th Street, Lockport on **Tuesday, September 8th at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marilynn Sells at 630-927-9996. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Outdoor Worship Join us as we take our worship outside on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm**. We'll gather under the open sky to celebrate God's presence in His creation. Invite your friends and family to this special time of praise and fellowship.

Senior Spirits Seniors meets on **Thursday, September 17th at noon** with our usual Potluck lunch and we will be putting together puzzles! In October, Leslie Goddard will be giving a presentation on Gilda Radner! We will have a Free Will offering to help defer her cost! Any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact Marilynn at (630) 927-9996.

Looking for Singers Gloria Dei has asked Lord of Life to join them for their Reformation Hymn Festival on **Sunday, October 25th at 4 pm**. They are looking for people to join the choir. There will be choir rehearsals at Gloria Dei on **Wednesday, October 21 from 7-9 pm** and **Saturday, October 24, 10 am-noon**.

Last Week's Giving – \$1715.00

Electronic Donation for the month of July - \$1007.55

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	9/6	10:00 AM	Worship
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Monday	9/7	Labor Day	
Tuesday	9/8	11:00 AM	Rummage Sale Set Up
		11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch
		5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		6:00 PM	Darien Arts Council
Wednesday	9/9	10:00 AM	Bible Study
		11:00 AM	Rummage Sale Set Up
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	9/10	11:00 AM	Rummage Sale Set Up
Friday	9/11	8:00 AM	Rummage Sale
		9:30 AM	Cards
Saturday	9/12	8:00 AM	Rummage Sale
Sunday	9/13	10:00 AM	Worship
		12:00 PM	Loving Word

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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Please call the church office first if you need something.