

**Welcome to Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

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 All Creatures of Our God and King LBW
527 Verse 1,2,6,7

1 All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice with us sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam:

Refrain:

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 O rushing wind and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft:
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice,
O lights of evening, find a voice.

Refrain:

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 And you, most kind and gentle death,
Waiting to hush our final breath,
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
You lead to heav'n the child of God,
Where Christ our Lord the way has trod.

Refrain:

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 Let all things their Creator bless
And worship God in humbleness.
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,

Refrain:

Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of
forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and
adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

All are seated

Word

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- ⁹ you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those

who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

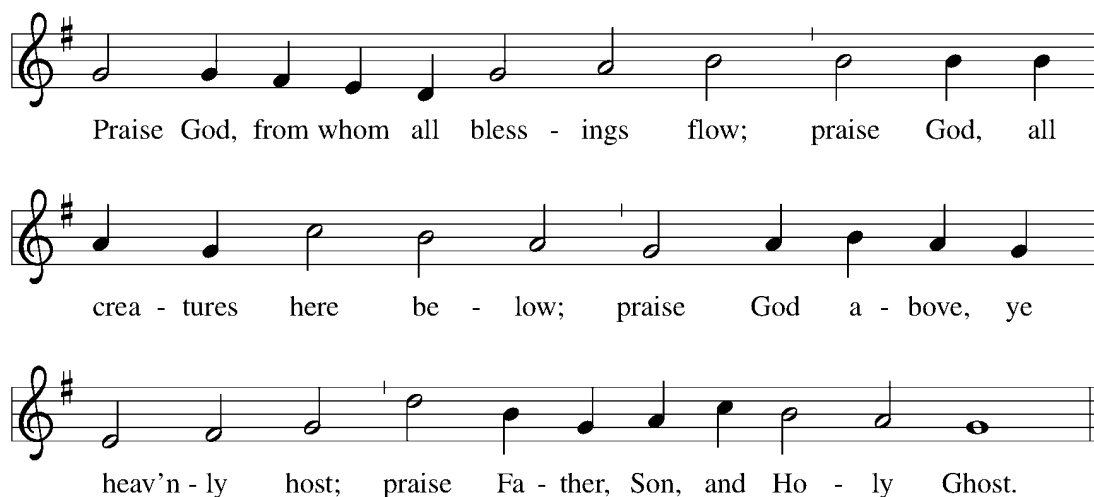
¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are comfortable



Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; **your sins are forgiven on account of his name.** *Alleluia.* (1 John 2:1, 12)

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35

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

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his

fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
All are seated.

SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

HYMN OF THE DAY

Learning to Let Go

Kesha

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.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and
despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given
us in Jesus. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy.
Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead
us to wonder at your creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of
the power entrusted to them. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need 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.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those 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...

.....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

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

SENDING HYMN Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW 359

1 Where charity and love prevail,
 there God is ever found;

brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.

- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.
- 3 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.
- 5 Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

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

Kellie Kerfin

Alex Kerfin

Nick Tangorra

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Marlene Carlson

Ray Silhan III and Marlene Carlson

Alice Tangorra

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

Announcements

9-13-2026

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

Flowers today are provided by **Marilynn Sells**.

Ride Share Ministry The purpose of our **Ride Share Ministry** is to connect members who need transportation with members of our congregation who are willing to help provide a ride.

If you would like to transport members of our congregation please fill out the following form. <https://forms.gle/iZxKLnAJ7mRtUHPZ7>

Once we compile a list of volunteer drivers, we will share it with those looking for a ride.

Outdoor Worship 🎵 **Elvis Gospel Hymn Sing** 🎵 Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 PM

Put on your blue suede shoes and join us for a special midweek worship service celebrating the gospel music made famous by Elvis Presley!

Elvis may be remembered as the King of Rock & Roll, but gospel music remained close to his heart throughout his life. Together we'll sing some of his beloved gospel favorites, including "How Great Thou Art," "Peace in the Valley," "Amazing Grace," "His Hand in Mine," and more.

Come ready to sing, pray, share in Holy Communion, and celebrate the amazing grace of God.

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 Marilyn at (630) 927-9996.

Pet Blessing and Church Picnic Join us on **Sunday, October 4th at 11:30 AM** for a special outdoor worship with the **Blessing of the Animals** in honor of St. Francis. Bring your pet or a photo if they're not a fan of crowds, and stay after for a **church-wide picnic** with food, games, and fellowship. We'll also take time to **celebrate Pastor Adam's 5th anniversary** at Lord of Life. **Note that there will be no 10:00AM service that day.**

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 – \$3745.00

Electronic Donation for the month of August - \$1007.55

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	9/13	10:00 AM	Worship
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	9/15	5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		7:00 PM	Church Council
Wednesday	9/16	10:00 AM	Bible Study
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	9/17	12:00 PM	Senior Spirits
Friday	9/18	9:30 AM	Cards
		6:30 PM	Darien Arts Council
Saturday	9/19	9:00 AM	SDA
		1:00 PM	Darien Arts Council
Sunday	9/20	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.