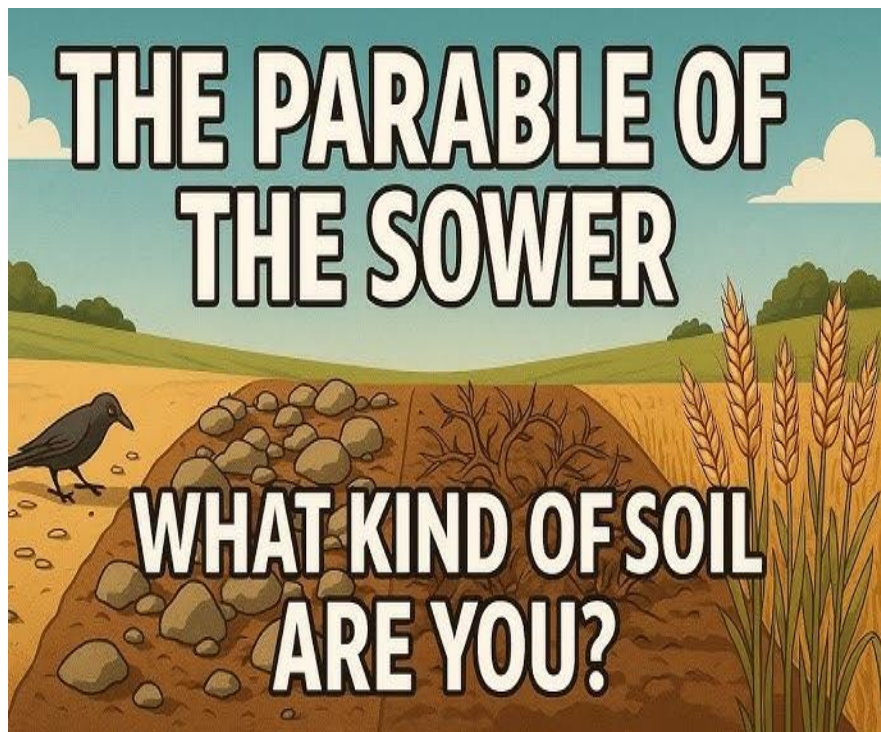


Welcome to Worship at  
***Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church***  
Growing Together for Christ  
Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor  
Office: 847-497-4JOY (4569) – Cell: 815-861-9554  
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051  
[www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)



July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

We worship in-person and on-line at 9:00 am. There is a link on our website to join the on-line Worship Service through Zoom!  
Stay safe and God bless!

## Gathering

### Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

#### Call to Worship

P: Fresh vegetables and fruit in our gardens:

**C: we give praise to you, God of the harvest!**

P: Children chasing fireflies and families in the backyard:

**C: we give praise to you, God of summer days!**

P: Parents teaching children to ride bikes or to bait a hook:

**C: we give praise to you, God of our lives!**

**Opening Song:** Our God

#### Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*(silence is kept for reflection)*

P: Compassionate God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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,  
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

**C: Amen.**

**Faith Song:** I Will Follow Him (Sister Act)

#### Prayer of the Day

#### Word

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field

shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> **To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup> Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup> **You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup> You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup> **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it

does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot,<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: <sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.....

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Children's Message**

**Tessa Ancona**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Ken Gibson**

**Hymn of the Day:** As Rain from the Clouds (ELW #508)

**Prayers of Intercession**

A: "God of grace", ...C: "Hear our prayer"

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Offering Invitation:** Friends, an offering is an act of Worship, given freely to share God's love through this congregation. Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed around, you may come forward to put your gift in the offering plate, or send your gifts to the church at: **5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051** or give online at [www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org)

**Offering Prayer**

**Lord's Supper**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**C: 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.**

**Invitation to Communion:** *Christ is truly present with us today, especially in the gifts of bread and wine. God's table is open; we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table! After the choir is served, come up the center aisle, from front to back. If you are unable to come forward, please let the pastor or another worship leader know, and we will bring communion to you. If you do not receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, simply keep your hands folded. The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is juice. Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten free wafer. All are welcome!*

**Communion Songs:** Gratitude/I Love You Lord

**Prayer After Communion**

**Sending**

**COMMISSIONING**

P: At Joyful Harvest Church,

**C: our mission is growing together for Christ.**

P: As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value:

**C: Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.**

**SENDING**

P: Go forth as God's people.

**C: We will sow seeds of love and joy in the world.**

P: Go forth as Christ's true friends.

**C: We will sow seeds of justice and hope in oppression-strewn paths.**

P: Go forth as the Spirit's love.

**C: We will sow seeds of peace and reconciliation in every corner of creation.**

**Sending Song:** How Good of God

**BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen**

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

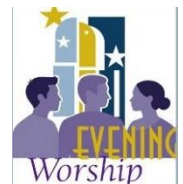
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements**

*If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.*

**Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL) @ 4:30pm:**

Can't make it on Sunday?? Come to our new Saturday night Liturgy (SNL) to see what you're missing. Join Pr. Ken on Saturday nights (see schedule below) at 4:30 pm and enjoy a shortened version of the following Sunday's service. We will be using our new hymnals!





## Volleyball/Family Fun Night! Sat. Jul 18th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Want to let the kids burn off some energy? Join us for an indoor game of volleyball. In case you're not that athletic we will also be playing baggo, jenga, board and card games. Have a favorite game you'd like to share, bring it along. We will be providing pizza and drinks.

## Wed. "Weed & Feed" – Watch Your Bulletin for Dates

Wear your "Holy" jeans, bring a pair of gloves and roll up your sleeves! Help is needed to keep the garden looking good. Watch your bulletin and keep your ears open during announcements to find out the next date. "Weeding" will start at 4:00pm and we will have a light "feeding" at 5:00pm. Please sign up on welcome table, be sure to include phone # in case of cancellation.



## Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 14	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Jul 14	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Jul 15	Council Meeting	6:00-7:00 p.m.
Thur. Jul 16	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Jul 18	Volleyball/Game Night	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat. Jul 18	NO - Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.
Sun. Jul 19	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.

## Upcoming Events

Sat. Jul 25	Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)	4:30 p.m.
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## Save The Date!

*Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.*

Wednesdays as Announced – **"Weed & Feed"**

Aug 8 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

Aug 15 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

Aug 22 – **Saturday Night Liturgy (SNL)**

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**July 12, 2026**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**



*God's word brings new life and growth.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</b>	<b>Parable of the sower</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Romans 8:1-11</b>	<b>Life in the Spirit</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 55:10-13</b>	<b>God's word is powerful</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 119:105-112</b>	<b>Light from the Lord's law</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Genesis 25:9-34</b>	<b>Esau and Jacob</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Leviticus 26:1-13</b>	<b>Rewards for obedience</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 65:1-13</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for earth's bounty</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</b>	<b>Parable of the weeds</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. Psalm 65:5 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of abundant grace and mercy, help us to receive your word of life that we may be your good soil to grow in faith and share your word with others. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for your eternal care that blesses us with daily food through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God lead you out in joy and back in peace. (Isaiah 55:12)



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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is needed for a garden to be productive?
- When and where do you receive God's word?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Isaiah 55:10-13 and Romans 8:1-11.

Yes, we have an awesome God, as noted in Psalm 65:5. In Isaiah 55 that awesomeness is expressed through God's word that is powerful. It does what God intends. It is productive. Isaiah 55 announces the return from exile for God's people. God's word, God's will shall accomplish it. This text is often used at the ordination of a pastor or a deacon. However, could we not also use it at weddings, baptisms, and any other occasion that celebrates God's people living together in faith, hope, and love? God's word is given for all of us to speak aloud to one another for our encouragement and growth in life and faith. God's word at a meal creates thankful hearts for the abundance of God's love with daily food. God's word in the morning, evening, or at bedtime reminds us of the eternal care of God and that we are those in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells and for whom there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1 and 11). Let's cast God's word into all the corners of the earth, landing on all kinds of soil where it may sprout up and produce an abundant harvest.

*Discuss:* When are times during the week that you use and speak God's word?

*Pray:* **Creative God, may the Spirit of Christ create in me the good soil to receive your word and grow in grace. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to help plant the seeds of God's word with those around you?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



*"But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit"* (Matthew 13:23a). Take a sheet of paper and write "Good Soil" across the bottom. Draw a fruit tree with a trunk, leaves, and fruit. On each drawing of fruit, write different ways you show God's love to others. Read what you have written and think or talk about how your "fruits" help you and others grow in their faith.

*Then pray:* **Dear God, give us the faith to bear good fruit. Amen.**



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