Welcome to Worship at

Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
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November 8th, 2026	**24th 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: We gather to worship our God:
C: not only with those whose hearts overflow with joy,
but with those who long to offer their deepest sorrows.
P: We gather to follow Jesus:
C: not only with songs and prayers,
but with lives of service and peace.
P: We gather to be filled with the Spirit's presence:
C: not only so we can wait patiently,
but so we can be with those who are impatient
for justice and hope in their lives.

Opening Song: Thank You, Lord

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our holiness over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C: Amen.

Faith Song: Holy Forever

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of
the LORD? It is darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was
met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I

take no delight in your solemn assemblies. [22] Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. [23] Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. [24] But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 70:1-5

[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

[2] **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

[4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: Jesus said to the disciples: [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like…..

P: This is the gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message **Tessa Ancona**

Sermon **Pastor Linda Winkelman**

Hymn of the Day: God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW #705)

Prayers of Intercession

A:"God, in your mercy",...**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 o**r give online at 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: Better Is One Day/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 take hope to all who have none.
P: Go forth as the Bridegroom's beloved!
C: We will open the floodgates of God's compassion for all.
P: Go forth to share the Spirit!
C: We will be rivers of justice flowing through the world.

Sending Song: Are you Washed in the Blood?/I'll Fly Away

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: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
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.



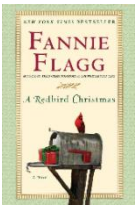
Poinsettias* – Order Yours *Now thru Dec 6th: As we celebrate the birth of Christ, help us fill the Sanctuary with the beauty of Poinsettias. After Christmas, take it home or give it to a friend. See insert in your bulletin to order yours today!



Hanging of the Greens - Sat. Nov 28th @ 9:00 a.m.:
Join us as we decorate the sanctuary in preparation for the Advent Season. We will be putting up the tree, hanging wreaths and garland. The more hands the better!

Soundtrack of Christmas! Sun. Nov 29th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.:
Do you have a love for Christmas Carols? This is the place to be. Join in as our Choir Leaders, Jeff & Kim, sing some of your favorites. From old to new and lots in between. Is there a special carol you like to hear? Signup on the sheet in the Narthex, and they will do their best to make it happen. There will be cookies & coffee/punch/hot chocolate!





Joyful Readers Book Club – Sat. Dec 5th @ 9:00 a.m.:
Do you like to read, are you looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark in this fellowship opportunity. They're reading *"A Redbird Christmas"* by Fannie Flagg. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!

Weekly Calendar

Mon-Thurs	**Daily Devotionals with Pr. Ken**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Nov 10	**Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Nov 10	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Wed. Nov 11	**Mat Yoga with Robin**	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Thur. Nov 12	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Nov 14	**Chair Yoga with Robin**	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 15	**Sunday Worship - Thanksgiving Potluck**	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 15	**NO** - Faith Formation Class	10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Nov 18	**Mat Yoga with Robin**	4:00-5:00 p.m.
Sat. Nov 21	**Chair Yoga with Robin**	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 22	**Council Meeting**	10:45-11:45 a.m.
Sat. Nov 28	**Hanging of the Greens**	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 29	**5th Annual Soundtrack of Christmas**	2:00-4:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec 02	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec 05	**Joyful Readers**	9:00-10:00 a.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Dec 09 & 16 – **Holden Evening Prayer Service**
Dec 19 **– Cookie Exchange @ JHC**
Dec 24 **– Christmas Eve Service**
Jan 17 **– Annual Meeting**

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NOVEMBER 8, 2026
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

Be alert and be glad for the Lord is coming.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**Matthew 25:1-13**	**Parable of the ten bridesmaids**
Monday	**Amos 5:18-24**	**What the Lord requires**
Tuesday	**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**	**The coming of the Lord**
Wednesday	**Joshua 24:14-28**	**The tribes renew the covenant**
Thursday	**Psalm 78:1-8**	**Tell the children God's word**
Friday	**Luke 21:29-38**	**Be always on the watch**
Saturday	**Psalm 70**	**Prayer for deliverance**
Sunday	**Matthew 25:14-30**	**Parable of the talents**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" ***Psalm 70:4 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Righteous God, help us to be ready for the time Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to anticipate the end of the age with joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, help us to receive this food with thanksgiving and to serve those less fortunate with acts of love and service. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with peace and joy.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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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:

- Has there ever been a time you felt you were not ready for something? What happened?
- How does your Christian faith call you to a sense of urgency and readiness?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:1-13.

This parable seems harsh. We might think we are to have mercy on the foolish bridesmaids and not lock them out. A more merciful approach is evident in the next chapter when Jesus' leadership team of disciples falls asleep while Jesus prays in the garden (Matthew 26:36-46). Jesus chastises them without a sense of rejection. In this parable of the bridesmaids, the church is reminded to live with the final victory of God in Christ in sight. It is to impact our daily lives as we wait for Christ's second coming. Unless there is a particular experience of suffering, we tend to live without paying much attention to Christ's coming again. Jesus is alerting his followers to the importance of watchfulness of the times and readiness to act faithfully at any given moment. That moment is when the church blesses, serves with justice, and offers salvation in Jesus' name.

Discuss: How might a conscious awareness of Christ's victory and return to "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed), impact your daily conduct?

Pray: **Come Lord Jesus, strengthen our lives of faith that we may anticipate your coming again with joy and serve our neighbor in love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show God's love and mercy to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

According to Amos, worship without acts of justice for the needy is meaningless to God. During and after a worship service this week, take time to think about how God's acts of love and mercy for you and all humanity lead you to do acts of kindness and love for others.

Pray: **Dear God, be with me each day. Help me to show love, fairness, and care for others through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

Joyful HARVEST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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