Welcome to Worship at

Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church

Growing Together for Christ

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor
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November 22nd, 2026	**Christ the King Sunday**

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: Our lives scattered on the floor of the world,
our limits pushed by stress and impatience, we come:
C: For here, God would gather us, bringing us to the realm of peace.
P: Wondering if truth is fake or worth pursuing,
questioning whether anyone is worth following or believing, we come:
C: For here, God would feed us with wisdom,
sending the One who would lead us to the realm of hope.
P: Questioning the motives of everyone in power,
doubting that justice can be found anywhere, we come:
C: For here, God brings us to worship with our siblings,
reuniting us from every place we have strayed.

Opening Song: We Gather Together

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: How Great is Our God

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort
them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among
scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the

places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.
A: Word of God, Word of Life
C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a
1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
3 For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**
5 The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
7a For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23
15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the

immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said to the disciples:] [31] "When the Son of Man comes in his.....

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: We Will Glorify

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: Sanctuary/Give Thanks

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: Now, from where God has gathered us, let us go.
C: To discover that the stranger and homeless, the prisoner and the hospice patient and all those around us, are our siblings in life and faith.
P: Now, from where we have been fed, let us go.
C: To join Jesus in serving those who thirst for righteousness as well as those who hunger for justice.
P: Now, from where we have been one, let us go.
C: To find those who have been tossed aside, gathering them up to bring them to the Spirit's goodness and peace.

Sending Song: Over the River and Through the Woods/The Blessing

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!

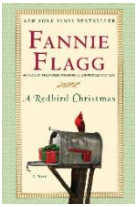




Hanging of the Greens - Sat. Nov 28th @ 9:00 a.m.:
Join us as we decorate the sanctuary in preparation for the Advent Season. We will be putting up the tree, hanging wreaths and garland. The more hands the better!

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 23	**Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast**	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Nov 23	**Food Pantry Service Opportunity**	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Nov 26	**NO** - Food Pantry - Thanksgiving	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Sat. Nov 28	**Hanging of the Greens**	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 29	**Sunday Worship**	9:00 a.m.
Sun. Nov 29	**Faith Formation Class**	10:45 a.m.
Sun. Nov 29	**5th Annual Soundtrack of Christmas**	2:00-4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Wed. Dec 02	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.
Sat. Dec 05	**Joyful Readers**	9:00-10:00 a.m.
Wed. Dec 09	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.
Wed. Dec 16	**Holden Evening Prayer Service**	6:00 p.m.

Save The Date!

Watch for more information about these events in upcoming bulletins.

Dec 19 **– Cookie Exchange @ JHC**
Dec 24 **– Christmas Eve Service**
Jan 17 **– Annual Meeting**

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NOVEMBER 22, 2026
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

taking faith home

Christ rules now and forevermore.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**Matthew 25:31-46**	**The sheep and the goats**
Monday	**Ezekiel 34:11-24**	**God, the true shepherd**
Tuesday	**Ephesians 1:15-23**	**Paul's Prayer**
Wednesday	**Psalm 100**	**All nations to praise the Lord**
Thursday	**Isaiah 1:16-20**	**Justice is needed**
Friday	**Amos 5:10-15**	**Choose good, not evil**
Saturday	**Psalm 95:1-7a**	**Worship and obey the Lord**
Sunday	**Matthew 13:24-37**	**When the Son of Man appears**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ***Ezekiel 34:16 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 95:7a)

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, to you we make a joyful noise for all that you do, including your gift of this food for us today. Amen. (Psalm 95:1).

A Blessing to Give:
May Christ the King give you courage.

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:

- What are some values that describe the role of a good leader?
- Why is it good to know that God cares for the poor, the sick, and the hungry?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ezekiel 34:11-24 and Matthew 25:31-46.

The God of the Bible is the God of justice but not just any kind of justice. God's justice recognizes the unfairness of power that abuses the weak. In Ezekiel 34, God has had enough of Judah's unjust shepherds (kings), specifically, the kings who have not taken care of God's sheep. Therefore, God declares the sheep that are lost, strayed, injured, and weak will be cared for by God's power and the fat and strong sheep—those well off at the expense of the weak—will be destroyed. That is the divine judgment Jesus presents in the parable of the sheep and the goats. God's will—Jesus' will, as seen in the Son of Man in the parable—is to provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, or sick. The message is so strong that when anyone has cared for these, they have cared for the Son of Man. The Gospel of Matthew does not shy away from judgment that distinguishes the authentic from the inauthentic life of those who follow Jesus. Matthew speaks against those who abuse their powers, whether religious, social, political, or economic. This final Sunday in the church year recognizes that all evil abuses will end one day and only God's compassion will survive through Christ, the true ruler of all things.

Discuss: In what ways do you live your life that reveals the love of Jesus to those in need?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see you in our neighbors, especially those in need of care through Jesus Christ, the one who is above all rule and authority. 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 support organizations that care for the needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This year, November 22nd is the last Sunday in the church year. Think or talk about the ministries in your congregation. In the past year, what were the highlights? In what ways did you grow in your faith? How did you share your faith with others? Write your thoughts on a sheet of paper. The new church year begins next week, the First Sunday of Advent. Take a moment to read through your list and think about what you can add to the ways you will share God's love with others in the coming year.

Pray: **God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 95:7a)**

Joyful HARVEST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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