

Christ Lutheran Church
115 Church Street, Duncannon, PA 17020
717.834.3140
Pastor Jennifer Toburen
Organist – Joe Abate
www.clcduncannon.org



**WOMAN,
GREAT
IS YOUR
FAITH!**

MATTHEW 15:28

Sunday, August 16, 2026

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Announcements

Congregation please stand

OPENING/CALL TO WORSHIP

P: My house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples, says the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

From: *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion – Year A Vol. 2*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, p. 123.

PREPARING

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,
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.

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.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"All Are Welcome"

ELW 641

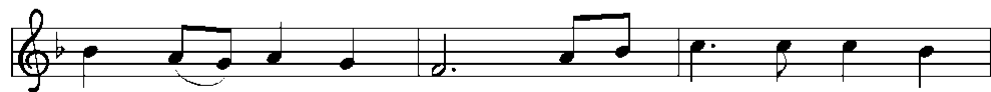
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

Kyrie

Congregation will sing all of the Kyrie in unison.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your compassion embraces everyone. Gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love, and rejoice in your astounding grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known | upon earth,**
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
- ³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;**
God, our own | God, has blessed us.
- ⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Congregation please stand

Christ Lutheran Church

Gospel Acclamation



The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”

²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

ELW 759

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Apostles 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 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.**

Sign of Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Prayers of Intercession

God is the One who answers prayer and walks with us in times of celebration and grief. Let us offer our prayers and give thanks to the One who comforts, restores, and heals.

A brief silence.

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom.....Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats.....Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

For the nations of the world and all those in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly.....Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. We pray for Shirley, Allan, Charlotte, Jack, Cathy, Roxy, Karen, Darlene, Chuck, Jessie, Helen, Millie, Peggy, Glenn, Carol, Marian, John, and DonnaMerciful God,
C receive our prayer.

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith.....Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death.....Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stewardship Snippet: Matthew 15: 27 ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

“We are beggars; this is true.” These are reported to be Martin Luther’s last written words. Christians are “beggars” for God’s grace, undeserving but graced nonetheless. A beggar’s faith focuses not on what is given or accomplished or believed, but on what is *received*. In today’s gospel, the Canaanite woman is such a “beggar” for Jesus’ healing for her daughter. She will accept even “crumbs” in the faith that Jesus’ healing power and love are intended even for her. As a gentile, she inhabits the margins of Jesus’ mission “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Marginalized or not, we are *all* beggars before God, as Paul reminds the Romans—all “imprisoned . . . in disobedience” and dependent on God. Even though crumbs from God’s table would be enough for us, we are offered instead the abundance of Jesus’ own self in bread and wine and invited to share this abundance with insider and outsider alike.

Lector - We will now worship God with our offering.

Offertory

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH. Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

MEAL

P Let us pray,

**C Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you
C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

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

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

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

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

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

P So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who are wandering still.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Amen.

Please be seated

Be Known to us, Lord Jesus

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Communion

Prepackaged communion is available for those who wish to remain in the pews.

COMMUNION HYMNS: **ACS 1009 – printed on next page.**

ELW 472

Sing 3 times

Come, Bring Your Burdens

Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for

ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Text: South African; English text Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick
Music: WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO, South African melody; arr. Welile Sigabi
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Congregation please stand

Christ Lutheran Church

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
 2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
 till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
 till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 where Christ, the bless-ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Post Communion Prayer

P Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine
 our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
 Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
 may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

Charge

P By the power of the Holy Spirit,
go forth
to serve your neighbor,
to love your enemy,
and to embody God's mercy
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Blessing

P The blessing of God,
source of life,
power of life,
redeemer of life,
be with you now and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

P Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

“Oh, Sing to the Lord”

ELW 822

Christ Lutheran Church

Oh, Sing to the Lord

Cantad al Señor



1 Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

2 *Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

4 *Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

3 *Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

5 *¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923. Spanish and English

Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR, Brazilian folk tune

Spanish and English text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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P We at Christ Lutheran Church are
C **God's called, Loved Children who serve.**
P Go in Peace. The living Word dwells in you.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Prayer Concerns

Shirley Hoffman, Pat Reich, Elyse Brown, Allan Imler, Sylvia Webb & the Indian Mobile Mission, Join Hands, Loads of Love, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Brian Proctor, Joanne Reisinger, Jackie Maguire, Jack Smith, Cathy Cavanaugh, Charlotte Dyer, Rachelle Gilcrease, Roxy Huss, Karen Ersoz, Darlene Johnson, Marian Hoffman, Ron & Nancy Moore, Chuck Hoffman, Helen Huss, Jessie Frye, Carol & Glenn Shumaker, Millie Bell, Lillian Kistler, Hope Kominek, Matthew Landis, Peggy Paden, Chris Hope, Velma Wittlinger, Lindsey Melnick, Judy Moore, Kristen Gaisior, Charlene McBride, Gay Weller, Frank Valentine, David Siegfried, Sr., John Hofer, Jesse Clouser and Family, Donna Clay, David Lozen, Jim & Vicki Smith.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector/prayers – Judy Swartz
Next Sunday – Sue Masser

Wine – Jean Tota
Next Sunday – Bill Brookhart

Grape Juice – Becky Yohe
Next Sunday – Ann Fleisher

Altar Guild – Barbara Still
Next Sunday – Cindy Brookhart

Counters – Bill Brookhart, Sue Landis
Next Sunday – Sandy Hoover, Charlene Lentvorsky

Ushers – Team 2
Ernie Meisel, Sue Masser, Kendra Masser

SUNDAY, August 16th, 2026

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service 11:00am – Holy Communion

Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom

MONDAY, August 17th, 2026

Social Ministry committee meeting – 1pm

TUESDAY, August 18th, 2026

Bible Study – 1pm – Zoom

Harshbarger's Fundraiser

WEDNESDAY, August 19th, 2026THURSDAY, August 20th, 2026

LWR Quilters – 1pm

FRIDAY, August 21st, 2026SATURDAY, August 22nd, 2026

Anniversary – Becky & Warren Yohe

SUNDAY, August 23rd, 2026

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship service – 11:00 am - Holy Communion

Back to School Ice Cream Social @ Clark's Ferry Tavern – 3-5pm.

Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Ministry Project for August – God’s Work, Our Hands will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Liverpool on Sunday, September 13th. We will be collecting the following items for the Shepherd’s Pantry foodbank: Pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly.

Noisy Offering – Today is Noisy Offering Sunday.

August Fundraiser – Harshbarger’s – August 18th at Harshbarger’s. 20% of total sales come back to CLC.

Movie Night at Mt. Zion – CLC is invited to Mt. Zion for a potluck dinner and movie night on Friday, August 28th at 6pm. The movie will be “The Sheep Detectives”.

Save the Date – Pioneer Day will be held on Saturday, September 19 at the Clark’s Ferry Tavern. CLC will again be baking and selling apple dumplings. There will be a sign up sheet for you to pre-order your apple dumplings as well as a sign up sheet to donate ingredients and/or volunteer your time.

August Meetings/Events

August 17 – Social Ministry committee meeting – 1pm.

August 18 – Harshbarger’s Fundraiser (at Harshbarger’s).

August 23 – Back to School Celebration – Clark’s Ferry Tavern – 3-5pm.

August 25 – Community Outreach committee meeting – 7pm - Zoom

August 28 – Potluck/Movie Night at Mt. Zion – 6pm. “The Sheep Detectives”

September Meetings/Events

September 7 – Finance committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom

September 10 – Church Council meeting – 6:30pm.

September 13 – God’s Work, Our Hands – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Liverpool.

September 19 – Pioneer Day at Clark’s Ferry Tavern. CLC will be selling apple dumplings.

September 20 – Worship & Music committee meeting following worship.

September 22 – Community Outreach committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom.

September 23 – CLC Book Club discussion – 7pm – Zoom.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 16, 2026
LECTIONARY 20
Breaking Boundaries

Jesus did not stay within the boundaries of his time, much to the frustration of authorities. He broke through not just geographic boundaries but religious, ethnic, and social boundaries as well.

Jesus intentionally broke geographic and ethnic boundaries in visiting the Canaanite communities of Tyre and Sidon. Canaanites and Jews had often been in conflict, so it was not that surprising when the disciples attempted to prevent a Canaanite woman from seeing Jesus. She was breaking boundaries herself in asking that Jesus heal her child. Jesus' first response seems harsh, but as the woman persisted and acknowledged him as "Lord" (something the disciples had been slow to grasp), he healed her child.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrated that God's love cannot be held back by boundaries created by humans based on who we are, where we are from, what we have done, our background, our position in society, and more. God's grace and restoration are available to all, with no exceptions.

And yet, history is filled with accounts of bias, discrimination, oppression, segregation, persecution, and genocide. Tragically, this continues today in a multitude of ways and a multitude of places.

As present-day disciples, we are called to follow Christ in breaking boundaries, challenging biases, and welcoming all to celebrate God's love at the font and the table. So, what boundaries do we need to break to work for peace and proclaim the good news? How are we and our congregations fighting bias, discrimination, oppression, and persecution wherever we can? How are we persistently asking Christ to heal and restore fractured communities and nations around the world?