



Christ United

13th Sunday after Pentecost

08-23-2026

Welcome!

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.

P: *Alleluia.* You are the Messiah,

C: the Son of the living God. *Alleluia. (Matt. 16:16)*

P: Our mission statement guides us so that:

C: We welcome all people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

A: In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Opening Song: Red Hymnal #858 (Stand)

Prayer of the Day:

P: Oh God you blessed Abraham and Sarah and made them a great nation. Keep us in remembrance of the rock from which we are hewn, that the waste places of our lives may blossom to your glory. **C: Amen.**

The Readings:

A: First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: Psalm 138

A: Second Bible Reading: Romans 12:1-8

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: The Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th Chapter

C: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel lesson is read

C: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Kids Time and the Sermon

Song of the Day: Red Hymnal #666 (Stand)

Apostles' Creed (Stand)

C: 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 again 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.

The Prayers

P: Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and our sisters and brothers. Open our hearts in compassion and receive these petitions on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

A: God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us O Lord to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor continues. Prepare the pastor you are calling to our congregation and prepare us to discern and recognize that calling. Prepare us in this congregation for new leadership and opportunities in this vast world in which we minister. Fill us with patience and understanding during this in between time. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.

P: Holy One, hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards of the fragile bounty of this earth so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven.

C: Amen

The Peace is shared at this time

P: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C: And also with you.

People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Offering – August Noisy Offerings: City Rescue Mission (Stand)

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

C: You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

A: 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 Him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

P: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

C: Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Sit) *The Bread is broken*

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

C: Thanks be to God.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion today is open to all. The Episcopal and Lutheran Churches believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

Communion is either wafer and individual cup, or celebrated as spiritual communion. You will receive a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). You will then take a cup from the tray the assistant is holding (wine in the outer rings, grape juice in the center). Eat the wafer and drink from the cup. You will not be ushered but ask that you come forward when ready and return to your seat when you have received communion.

(Stand)

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

The Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen

Closing Song: Red Hymnal #793 (Stand)

Announcements

Faith Word for the Week:

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

A: And This Week

C: Share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ

P: Presiding Minister **A:** Assisting Minister **C:** Congregation

Announcements and Events

Rummage Sale

Due to a shortage of workers (and possibly items) for the rummage sale we have decided to postpone the rummage sale until the spring.

Worship coordinators

We are looking for a few more volunteers to complete our July-Dec schedule. If you are able to help out please email Teri Mulder.

Hotdog Roast:

Please put Tuesday, August 25 on your calendar for a hot dog roast hosted by Mark Ybarra- more details to come.

Tree removal:

We are in need of help with the removal of a tree that is too close to the building.

Bible Study:

Bible study will resume on Wednesday Sept 23rd at 10:00am.

Basketball Hoop:

Mark Ybarra has generously donated a basketball hoop for our back driveway area. May this truly reach out to our community. Mark also is working with the greater Lansing church league and starting a basketball team for 5th grade boys and we will be donating the shirts with Christ United printed on the back.

Weekly/Monthly Events:

Bible Study - Sept 23rd @ 10am

Welcome to Christ United

Here is some information to help you feel welcome:

Relax - We don't expect you to stand up and introduce yourself or do anything which makes you feel uncomfortable. Most everything you need is in the bulletin.

Worship Service:

Children are always welcome in worship - There are some small toys in the entrance of the church for your use. The Pastor will invite children to be part of a "Kid's Time" before the sermon. Please feel free to move about as needed to make your children feel comfortable.

Bulletin and Music: Most everything you need is in the bulletin. We also use a variety of music resources, including hymnals and song sheets. Hymnals are located on the cart when you first come into the church. The sign next to the cart will direct you to which to pick up, the 'red' hymnal and/or the 'burgundy' hymnal. Song sheets are located by the bulletins.

Offering - Don't feel obligated to participate in the offering on your first visit. This service is our gift to you. Offering is a response to what God has given us. We also collect a "noisy offering." This is an offering of loose change for needs in our community and world. Each month the offering goes to a different need. The ideas for each of the offerings come from the participants in this ministry.

All are welcome to receive Communion - Whether you are a Christian or not, anyone can take communion here. Also, if you do not want to participate in the receiving of communion, feel free to come forward with your arms folded to receive a blessing.

Building - Restrooms are located on the lower level, at the far end of the building. Bathrooms are for all genders.

Refreshments after Worship - Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments.

We're glad you came today and look forward to seeing you again! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us.

Christ United

An Interdenominational Church founded by the Episcopal & Lutheran Church.

Welcoming ALL people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas - pastor.christuniteddewitt@gmail.com (616)

608-3334 **9:00 AM Sunday Worship** with Communion. Also broadcasting live on Facebook. 1000 West Webb Road, DeWitt, Michigan 48820

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