



Christ United

17th Sunday after Pentecost

09-20-2026

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.* Open our hearts, O Lord,

C: to give heed to what is said by your Son. *Alleluia.*

P: Our mission statement guides us so that:

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

A: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Opening Song: Red Hymnal #742 (Stand)

Prayer of the Day:

P: God of miracles and of mercy, all creation sings your praise. Like the vineyard owner, your grace is extravagant and unexpected. Lead us to repentance and the acceptance of your grace, that we may witness to your love, which embraces both those who we call friend and those we call stranger. **C:** Amen.

The Readings:

A: First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: Psalm 145:1-8

A: Second Bible Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th 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 #785 (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: We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer these prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

A: Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.

P: Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 – September Noisy Offerings: Greater Lansing Food Bank (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: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

Closing Song: Song Sheet (Stand)

Announcements

Faith Word for the Week:

Dismissal

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

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

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 Team:

Mark Ybarra has generously donated a basketball hoop for our back driveway area. 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. Still looking for kids to join, spread the news.

Tuesdays in the Fall:

Starting in September, we will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. One will be a game/fun night, and the other will be a service project. Feel free to bring your meal or snack with you to have and/or share. We will continue to extend the invitation to Grace Lutheran as well.

October 11, 2026:

The Episcopal Bishop Bonnie Perry will be visiting us on Oct. 11, 2026. She will lead us in worship, visit with us afterwards, then meet with the Steering Team. We will host a breakfast potluck for that morning.

Episcopal convention:

October 23-24 in Novi. Pastor Bryan will attend, and if a member or 2 would like to attend, that would be great. Please let us know!

Trunk or Treat:

The week of Halloween, when other groups are also doing "Trunk or Treat" we will host our own Trunk or Treat. Please feel free to start collecting candy, non-candy items, etc. Likely looking at Oct. 27 (the Tuesday CU activity night) or Oct. 30

Calendar of Events:

09/20/26: Pastor Lyle will reside over the service

09/22/26: 5:30 PM CU @ CU, Mark brings food, we play games!

09/23/26: 10:00 Bible Study

09/27/26: Possible clean outside with 10/04/26 as a back up if raining

09/30/26: 10:00AM Bible Study

10/11/26: Bishop Bonnie Perry will preside, visit with us, BREAKFAST POTLUCK (all who can bring a dish),

10/13/26 CU @ CU (Anyone?)

10/23-24/26 Episcopal Diocese Convention in Novi.

Week of October 24 Trunk or Treat

11/01/26 All Saints Sunday

Weekly/Monthly Events:

Bible Study - Sept 23rd @ 10am

Game night/Service Project night - Alternate every other Tuesday

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!

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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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