

# ***Living Christ Lutheran Church (L.C.M.S.)***

***Faith | Love | Outreach | Worship***

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Pastor Steven D Latzke 574-261-4427

[www.livingchristplainfield.com](http://www.livingchristplainfield.com)

***The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - July 23, 2023***



## **As We Gather**

To us in daily living it doesn't make sense that God allows evil to grow outside and even inside the Church. But as we await God's good harvest, we do so in hope, which does not depend on what our eyes see, but on the faith given us by the Holy Spirit. With faith, our ears hear God calling us His children and His listening to the Spirit's groaning for us. As precious wheat protected in God's barn, we can wait patiently for the harvest when by grace the "righteous will shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

## ***Living Christ for Kids***

Christian educational childcare for infants thru 11 years - Mrs. Kim Maxwell, Director  
317-837-9998

**Visitors, we welcome you** and thank you for being with us today. May we be a blessing to you and you to us. We pray you will be moved to come again soon to receive with us God's gifts of forgiveness, peace and life in the name of Jesus Christ.

Quietly prepare your hearts and minds to worship and approach the throne of our holy and almighty God.

**Worship each week** 10:30 AM (Communion: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

### **Growing in our Faith Walk -New series of Discussion Videos "Trite, not true"**

This series looks at some cultural beliefs and trite statements inside Christianity that sound good, wise and helpful, but in the end might not be true biblically, could discourage people, could disrupt their faith and lead them further away from a true relationship with God. Join on Sundays at 9:00 am

"When God Closes a Door, He Opens a Window"

"You're Never More Safe than When You're in the Will of God"

**"Let Go and Let God" – July 23rd**

"Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"

"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me"

"Everything Happens for a Reason"

**The worship service is recorded and available by text and/or email. You can also find it on our website – [www.livingchristplainfield.com](http://www.livingchristplainfield.com).** Please let us know if you (or someone you know) would also like to receive the service.

**If you are in need of pastoral services**, please contact Pastor Latzke at (574) 261-4427 or Emmett Fuehrer (317-260-0821) or Evelyn Benning (317-292-3195).

## **Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, July 29**

**Brunch with Kathie – 10:00 am**

Ladies, join us as we welcome Kathie to LCLC and she gets to know us as we get to know her.

**Monday, July 31 – 4 pm**

**School Kickoff &**

**Blessing of the Backpacks & Staff**

**Saturday, August 12**

**Indiana District LWML Treatshop – 9:30 – 3:30**

Come along. Check the info on the table in the lobby and in the newsletter. Let Evelyn know if you plan to attend.

## Opening Hymn

## 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

*(Please rise for the last stanza.)*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your  
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that  
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

### Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

### Confession of Sins

*LSB 203*

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

### Absolution

*LSB 203*

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 86:11–15; antiphon: v. 6*

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;  
listen to my plea for grace.

**Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;  
unite my heart to fear your name.**

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.

**For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men  
seek my life,

and they do not set you before them.

**But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;  
listen to my plea for grace.

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Christ, have mercy.**
- A** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Christ, have mercy.**
- A** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For those who labor, those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Christ, have mercy.**
- A** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Christ, have mercy.**
- A** For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

*(No one compares to God.)*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,  
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

<sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

*Romans 8:18–27*

*(The Holy Spirit intercedes as we wait for the end of this troubled world.)*

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what

is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Verse**

*Matthew 13:35b*

**Alleluia. I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia**

*LSB 205*



**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The parable of the wheat and weeds)*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

<sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.



<sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

## Hymn of the Day

## 575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## EVEN CREATION WAITS

*Text:* Romans 8:18–27

## Votum

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Offering

*(Please place your offering in the offering plate in the back)*

781 We Give Thee But Thine Own (Presentation of Offerings)

sts. 1–2, 6



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive  
6 And we be - lieve Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!  
What - e'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it un - to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church -

**P** Let us come before God in prayer as His people, the sheep of His pasture, trusting that the Lord is good and His love endures forever.

Following each petition: **P** In mercy, O Lord,  
**C** hear our prayer.

**P** In faith we entrust our prayers to You, heavenly Father. You are good and Your love endures forever; Your faithfulness continues through all generations.

**C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## 861 Christ Be My Leader



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion; with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Tune: Irish

Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018662

Tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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