



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Pastor Lee Ann Pomrenke



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Lee Ann Pomrenke

Musical Prelude

“Childrens Songs” by Schumann

Eric Dickey

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding. God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
VS 3 Low Voices VS 4 High Voices

ELW 879

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.**



Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

The musical score is written on eight staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high -", "est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.", "Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and", "Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we", "praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus", "Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,", "Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the", "world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the".

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

PO God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

P Here ends the Reading C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P Here ends the Reading C Thanks be to God!



The Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

R The Holy Gospel according.... **C** **Glory to you, O Lord!**

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C** **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Pastor Lee Ann Pomrenke

Hymn

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW 798

VS 3 Low Voices VS 4 High Voices

The Apostles’ Creed

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 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.

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

AM God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, so that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict; **Tom Jennings, Phyllis Sturgeon, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Dave & Nancy Myerholtz, Brianna Chavez, Brittany Dewitz, Sue Brown, Leah Herner-Patnode, Charlie Gorniak, Carl & Judy Mock, Susan Meyer, Deann Schiavone, Carl Gottwald, Bonnie Williams, Heidi Lohrmann, Mike Carroll, Bill Patnode, Val Brown, Kamden, Angie Blackburn, Robin McSurley** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

Our Tithes and Offering *Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

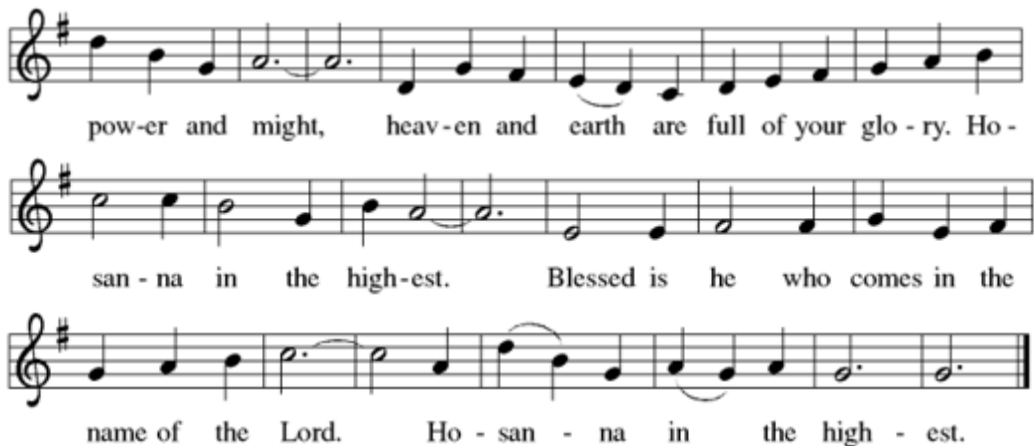
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

****Eucharistic Prayer Continues**





The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Hymns

"Lamb of God"





mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Spirit Open My Heart”

ACS 1043

Refrain



Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to



“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams ”

ELW 717

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! Our family welcomes you to the house of the Lord today! We ask God to bless His Holy Word and Sacrament today so that his people might receive strength for living out our days! If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Community of Christ!

We WELCOME YOU to worship with us at our 9:00 a.m. worship service. Join us in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you and as always **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

The Tues. morning ladies Bible study will begin again on Sept. 12th @ 8:30 am. We will be studying Beth Moore's "To Live Is Christ"- the life and ministry of Paul. This is a 10-week study with video and class discussion plus some homework. You will need to purchase the study guide on your own. Please sign up on the kiosk. All ladies of the church are welcome and bring a friend! Questions?? Call Becky King at 419-349-7319.

The Outreach Committee is reaching out to YOU! Come help us Make Jesus Known and join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 pm at the Swagler's residence - 10240 Reed Rd. We'll be stuffing bags to distribute at Roche de Boeuf and planning upcoming activities. No experience necessary!

Grief Resources Workshop

Please join us on September 7 at 7:00 p.m. when a representative from Hospice of Northwest Ohio will present information on the grief process. Resources for managing grief will also be presented. We ask that those in attendance also provide feedback on how our congregation can best support our members that are experiencing grief. Please look for a sign-up on the kiosk or contact Kristen Schuchmann at 419-279-7759 to RSVP or with questions.



PLEASE help us WELCOME Pastor Steve, Sarah, Mark, and Anna to the Community of Christ Family!! The Mutual Ministry Team is collecting items for a **WELCOME BASKET** that will be presented to them after the service on Sunday, September 24th. Gifts can either be made anonymously or feel free to include a welcome card with your gift. Ideas such as local merchant gifts, restaurant gift cards, home improvement gift cards, etc. Feel free to get as “creative” as you wish to extend Pastor Steve and his family a **WARM WELCOME!** Please have these gifts turned in to Michelle in the office no later than Wednesday, September 20th!

God's Work Our Hands

On Saturday, September 16th, Community of Christ will be participating in a day of service. This tradition started 10 years ago through the ELCA as a means to dedicate a day to service for others. In the past years, we've cleaned the Whitehouse Library and participated in Food for Thought bag lunch distribution in downtown Toledo. This year we will be helping at Urban Wholistics. Brothers and sisters from Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania will be joining us. Please sign up on the kiosk at church or text me (Sarah) at 419.261.2843 if you plan to participate. You can also email me at sarah.rockwell.maritz@gmail.com Make sure you include your T-Shirt size if you don't already have one from past years' God's Work Our Hands activities.



Ladies' Lunch will be Friday, September 22 @ 11:30 @ Chowders' N Moor in Waterville, 312 South St. Please sign up on the kiosk. Questions call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. All the ladies are invited & bring a friend.



Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 19th at 1 PM in the CoC Lounge to discuss Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club by J. Ryan

Stradal. The Waterville Library has copies of our selection still available. All are welcome to come join us.



**Altar
Flowers**
Ministry Opportunity

DATES AVAILABLE: *December 10, and 31.* Please sponsor a Sunday by filling out the tag on the bulletin board in the hallway plus filling out the envelopes with your offering. Envelopes are also located on the table in the hallway 😊 Thank you!!!

**Altar Flowers are given by Holly Schmidbauer sister
of Nancy Shaw!! ❤️**

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST PRESENTS

BLUE JEAN *Sunday*

10 SEP
2023
9AM

Join us for an outdoor worship service to kick off our 50th anniversary celebrations! Enjoy a service with live music and preaching by our founding pastor, Ray Gottschling. Bring your lawn chairs! After, we invite you to stick around for an old-fashioned church potluck, games, and a school supply service project at Ilam! Please see the signup sheets in the gathering space for more information and for attendance purposes.

***** This is one you WON'T want to MISS! Unfortunately, we will NOT be able to livestream this service as it will be outdoors. *****

Suggested School Supply List for TPS Students

We will be collecting items from this list to be given to Salem Lutheran Church. They will distribute the items collected to the Toledo Public Schools in need. Thank you for your kindness!

- Regular-size book bag
- Folders
- 24 pack Crayola Crayons
- Glue
- Glue Sticks
- Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- Markers- colored
- Highlighter- Yellow
- Pens
- Red pens
- Dry-erase markers - black
- Pencil bag or box
- Blunt tip scissors
- Wide-ruled notebook paper
- Composition book
- Spiral notebooks
- Loose leaf notebook
- Stapler and staples
- Ruler
- 1-inch binders with inside pockets
- Subject dividers
- 3 x 5 Index cards
- Headphones or earbuds
- Clorox wet wipes
- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Quart storage bags



**Join us on Facebook Live at
9:00 a.m.**

**or
in person!**

**Worship & Sacrament
Sunday 9 a.m.**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:15 a.m. starting in June**

**AA Meeting
Wednesdays 8 p.m.**

**Caregivers Support Meeting
First Monday of every month
6:30 p.m.**

**Clean & Feed Weekend
4th Sunday of Every Month**

Worship Services
Available on the net
at www.commofchrist.org



The time and talent of members in helping make worship services meaningful is highly valued. From Door Greeters to Communion Prep/Clean up and Camera Operators, all roles are vitally important. We welcome all members in becoming worship volunteers, but we have special opportunities for more folks to serve as Door Greeters and Camera Operators. Although little to no training is needed for any of the roles, it is available.

In serving as a worship volunteer, you may either sign up on your own based on your own schedule, or be assigned by worship volunteer coordinators. If you would like to become a new worship volunteer, change your worship volunteer roles, or how you are assigned, please complete the worship volunteer update survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L7LMHD3> or found in the lobby by Sept 7th.

For more information about worship volunteering, contact Carol Wiemken or Laurie Mauro.