



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
14th Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, August 25, 2024
9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude “Les Barricades Mystérieuses by François Couperin”

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 the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, **help us.**

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God’s mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Hymn Sing “One Hymn Chosen by the Congregation”

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.**

Hymn of Praise “Two - Three Hymn *Chosen by the Congregation*”

Prayer of the Day

P Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

L The Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever

will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!



The Holy Gospel: John 6:56-69

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

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about

with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

Sermon

“An Acquired Taste”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn Sing

“Two Hymns Chosen by the Congregation”

The Apostle’s 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 Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

AM Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Larry Geer, Troy Bernhard, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Jack Miller, Nancy Meyer, Bill Lenz, Connie Weaver, Martina Benton, Bob Preston....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey’s end. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

P We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **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. A “gluten-free” host option is available upon request as well.

Sharing of the Peace

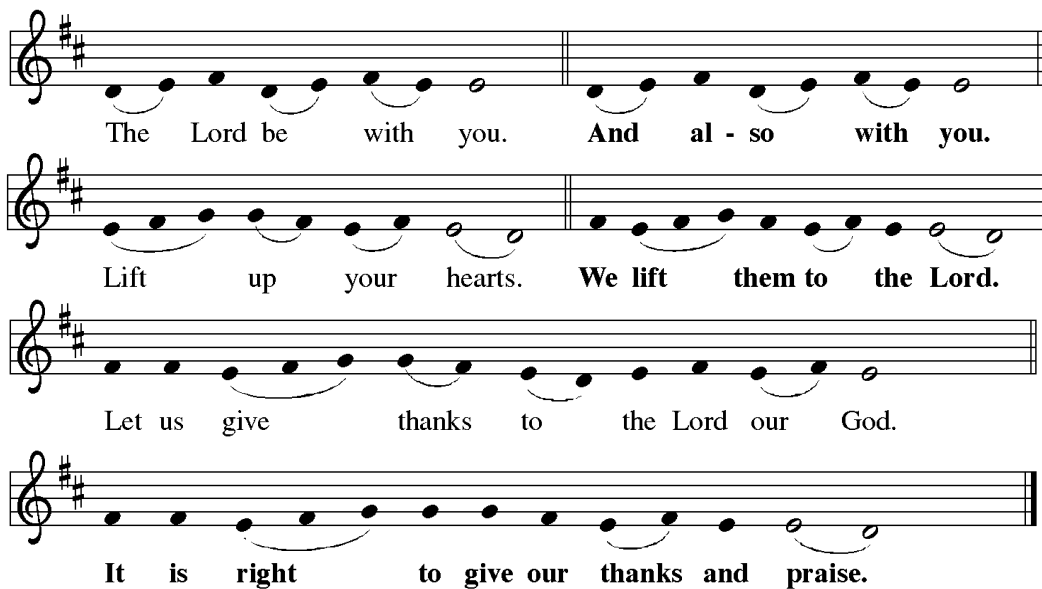
P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

Our Tithes and Offerings *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 Jesus, Bread of life, 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.



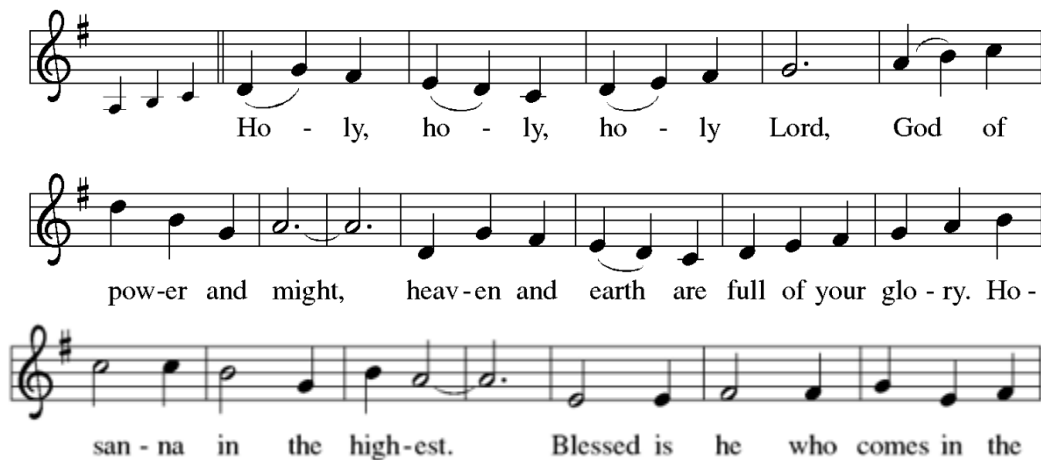
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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”



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; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn Sing

“Two Hymns *Chosen by the Congregation*”

Post Communion Blessing**Prayer after Communion**

AM Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

THE SENDING***Milestones & Announcements:***

Welcome to Vicar Natalie and Family!

The Blessing

P The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn Sing

“One Hymn *Chosen by the Congregation*”

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning! We have moved to our summer worship hours. We will worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, September 8. Join us in person or on Facebook Live!!! Welcome to all who are visiting with us this morning! You are always welcome here!



*****IMPORTANT*****

**SPONSORED WEEKENDS HAVE NOT
BEEN TURNED IN*****

If you have sponsored a weekend for Altar Flowers and have not turned in your envelope(s) please do so no later than the Sunday before that weekend so this can be shared in the bulletin. Thank you ☩

Altar Flowers are given by Jim & Cheryl Fischer in honor of our 56th Wedding Anniversary 

Lutheran World Relief School Kits we are still in need of school supplies for the LWR School Kit drive. Our goal this year is to fill 50 – 60 bags! Here is a list of items needed; however, you can find a copy of them in the gathering space. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Tuohy @ 419-574-2297. Thank you!

(4) 70 sheet notebooks - (Wide or College Ruled) No loose-leaf paper.

(1) 30-centimeter ruler or one with both centimeters and inches on it.

(1) pencil sharpener

(1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors)

(5) unsharpened pencils

(5) black or blue ballpoint pens (No gel ink please)

Join us after worship TODAY Sunday, August 25, for an open breakfast for the whole congregation, hosted by Council and Outreach, as we gear up for a new school year and welcome our new seminary intern, Vicar Natalie Downs! Everybody is welcome, right after the 9:00 a.m. service in the fellowship hall!

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Friends and Faith Fall Kick-Off TONIGHT!!!!

Community of Christ parents, grandparents, and friends would you like an opportunity for the youth in your life from grades 7-12 to make memories, start new friendships, and get energized for what's ahead this school year? If so, the Anthony Wayne Area Friends and Faith Fall Kick-off invites you to have a fantastic time by joining us tonight Sunday, August 25, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. here at Community of

Christ Lutheran Church! Scan the QR code here or at the kiosk to register!! As always be sure to invite a FRIEND!!!

Let's Get This Party Started!

The choir will be kicking off our new season with a party at Doug and Rose Ackerman's home, 9454 Rockingham Dr., Whitehouse on August 28 at 6:00-? The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert. BYOB if you want something other than water or pop. Please sign up at the kiosk. New members or potential members are welcome!

Say YES to the choir!

Sign up on the kiosk or the church website, (commofchrist.org), for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 of the choir sessions offered between Sept 4 and Dec 24—more details at the kiosk and in the newsletter. Let's make a joyful noise together!

The Tuesday Morning Ladies bible study This new study begins Sept.17th @ 8:30 am. This fall we will learn about the prophet Hosea and his prostitute wife who leave, and Gomer continues under God's direction to buy back and bring home. This study shows how God kept loving the Jewish nation even when they had turned from him, he kept loving them just as Gomer loved his wife. We have much to learn about so great a love. You will need to purchase your study guide

entitled 'Hosea'. Please sign up at the kiosk if you will be attending. Questions? call Becky King @ 419-349-7319

Welcome Table Wednesdays

This fall, we're inviting children, families, and adults to a weekly gathering on Wednesday evenings with food, fellowship, and faith activities for all ages. Our Welcome Table Wednesdays will kick off on Wednesday, **September 4th** with a dinner open to all from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Then at 7:00 p.m., we'll have activities that are especially geared for kids and families, with music, stories, crafts, and games. It's open to everyone, too! (Of course, if you are planning to be in the choir this fall but want to bring your kids along to church, this is a great chance for kids to get to do fun and faithful activities with music, art, stories, and games while you join the choir! All will wrap up by 8:00 p.m. so you can get to the rest of your evenings after that! Sign up at the kiosk to let us know you plan on coming on the dates you can join us!

Property Announcement - Dear Members and Friends, The Property Committee has recently faced a few challenges. We've had to replace the air conditioner in the Fellowship Hall and repair a leak in the roof. These unexpected expenses have significantly reduced our Capital Improvement Fund. To help replenish our fund, we kindly ask that you consider directing any extra offerings to the Capital Improvement Fund. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated as we work to maintain and improve our beautiful church. Thank you for your continued support and contributions. Blessings, the Property Committee

Join Us for Blue Jean Sunday!

*Date: Sunday, September 8th

*Time: 9:00 a.m.

*Location: Worship service will be held outside in the churchyard (please bring a lawn chair)

This is a special service marking the end of our summer worship schedule and the conclusion of our golden anniversary celebration!

What to Do:

- ****Mark Your Calendars**** and join us for this festive outdoor worship experience.
- ****Sign Up**** to contribute to the picnic by choosing what you can bring, whether it's food, helping with the grill, setting up, or cleaning up afterward.

For more details, keep an eye on the September newsletter. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Two Services Are Back! **Date: ** Starting Sunday, September 15

We're excited to announce that beginning on September 15, we'll return to our regular schedule with two worship services: ****8:00 a.m.** & ****10:00 a.m.******

Join us for Sunday School! Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., for adults and kids of all ages. Join us as we resume our regular rhythm! See you there and don't forget to Bring a Friend!!



Save a Life

Blood Drive

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Community Center
6517 Finzel
Whitehouse, OH 43571

Friday, September 6, 2024
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**American
Red Cross**

Coming up this fall,

A Spiritual Gifts Workshop will be offered from 9:00-12:00, starting with a light breakfast at 8:45 on Sat, Sept 14th. This workshop will review and expand on information from this year's Spiritual Gifts Adult Sunday School to better prepare you to use your gifts to fulfill God's mission for you in his world. You do not need to have attended any of the prior Spiritual Gifts programs! This will also serve as a helpful introduction to The Fall Festival of Talents Weekend, and better enable you to identify, and consider how to best use your spiritual gifts and talents! Spiritual Gifts can be explored at any age, and you may learn to use different gifts across your lifetime as well as nurture others to use their gifts. Please join us!

You may sign up on the Kiosk or Sign-up Genius at the below link or QR code.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAEAA2AA0F8C34-50785196-spiritual>



Pastor Steve
Laurie Mauro

Worship Services

Available on the net
at www.commofchrist.org
OR you can use your cell
phone camera to access our
website with our QR code!



Church Office Hours
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(Monday through Friday)
Please note.....

Hours may vary with vacations,
please call ahead ☺

Open Breakfast
Sunday, August 25
Friends and Faith
Sunday, August 25
Choir Party
Wednesday, August 28
Church Office Closed
Friday, August 30
Monday, September 2 in observation of Labor Day
Blood Drive
Friday, September 6



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take

notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!