



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday,
September 1, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Menuet” by J.S. Bach

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first, we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace, you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

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

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.**

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Prayer of the Day

PO God our strength, without you, we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹ So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶ You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸ And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹ But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

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

The Second Reading: James 1:17-27

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.

²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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



The Holy Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹ “For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

Sermon

"The Good News...and the Bad News"

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”
Sung 2x

ELW 512

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 Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that

environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen healthcare workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to 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, Joanne, Gloria and Steve Eberly....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers’ rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed especially Loretta Pederi. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.

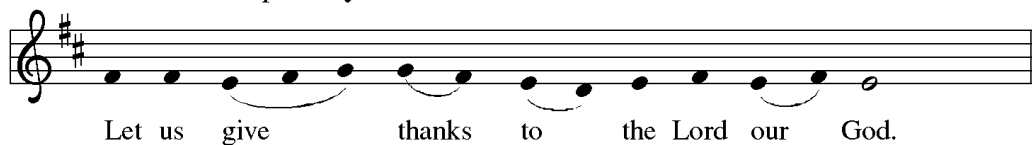
Sharing of the Peace

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 Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**



****The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**



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 -



Hymn

“Change My Heart, O God”

ELW 801

Sung 2x

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

ELW 818

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound*. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

AM Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P God all mighty, God most merciful ✝ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Let Justice Roll Like Streams”

ELW 717

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!



*****ATTENTION Members and Friends***
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 ☩

Join Us for Blue Jean Sunday! NEXT 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.

Look for more details in the September newsletter. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Worship SERVICES

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!!

“Held In Trust”—Sunday Morning Adult Forum Starts New Series Sept. 15

This fall, our Adult Sunday School class returns with a study called, “Held in Trust,” intended to help us see our whole lives in response to God’s goodness. Join us between services (from about 9:15-9:45 a.m.) in the Library for a six-part series looking at everything as a gift of God, and our role as stewards of those gifts. Beyond just thinking about “how we raise money to pay the church’s bills,” we’ll be exploring a whole-life perspective that sees our time, our talents, our treasures, and creation itself as gifts held in trust, for which we are caregivers. Over these weeks, we’ll gain a new perspective on everything in our lives, with a look at both biblical ideas of stewardship and practical connections for our daily lives. Join us for these sessions this fall: *Sep. 15—Everything Is God’s: Sources for Stewardship*, *Sep. 22—Gardeners of the World: Caretaking for Creation*, *Sep. 29—For the Sake of the Body: Tapping Our Talents*, *Oct. 6—Where Our Treasure Is: Rethinking Money and Faith*, *Oct. 13—Stewards of Time: Making the Most of Each Day* *Oct. 20—Unexpected Gifts: Offering Our Weaknesses*

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

New Bible Study Series: "Freed... For Love" Explores Galatians!

We live in a culture where ads promise us great deals and promotions for "free," but they always come with fine print, conditions, or limits. What if the Good News of Jesus were different, and we really were freed without a catch--what if we were freed... FOR LOVE? That's the question at the heart of Paul's letter to the Galatians,

and it's where our next Thursday's Bible Study series will take us. Starting right now, you can join us in person at 1:00 p.m. at Community of Christ for a deep dive into an important letter of the New Testament and the BIG questions like, "What puts me in the right relationship with God?" or "How does Jesus welcome outsiders?" and "What am I freed FOR in my life?" Everybody is welcome, and if you can't make a session in person, you can catch up online with our weekly video summary sessions which you can find on our Facebook page and on YouTube. Come check out what it means to be freed... for love!

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!

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

The Ladies Lunch will be at Brandywine Restaurant on September 27th @ 11:30 a.m. located at 6904 Salisbury Rd. Maumee, Oh 43537. It is located on the grounds of the Brandywine Country Club. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. Questions? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319

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)



Blood Drive

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Save a Life

Community Center
6517 Finzel
Whitehouse, OH 43571

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



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 use your spiritual gifts and talents best! 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 at 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 😊

Church Office Closed
Monday, September 2 in observation of Labor Day
LWR Quilting Ministry
Tuesday, September 3 & 17
Welcome Table Wednesday
Wednesday, September 4
Choir Practice
Wednesday, September 4
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, September 5
Bell Choir
Thursday, September 5
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!