



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
17th Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday,
September 15, 2024, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

Pam Stover

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

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

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.**

The congregation will sing the refrain only

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

The Pastor will sing the verses

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me

the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

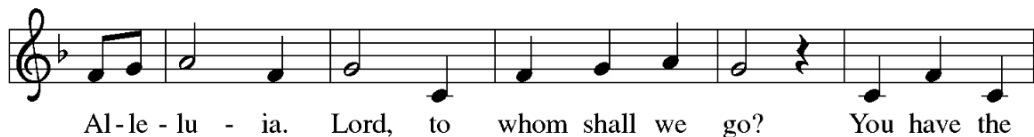
L The Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading: James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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



The Holy Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

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

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Sermon

"Inconceivable!"

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

ELW 808

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 We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve; **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, Iris Rockwell, Tom Szor, Janet Dellinger, Brooke Taylor, Fred Ortner....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We remember our beloved dead, especially Linda Dyko who with the great cloud of witnesses bears witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.

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 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.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, 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”

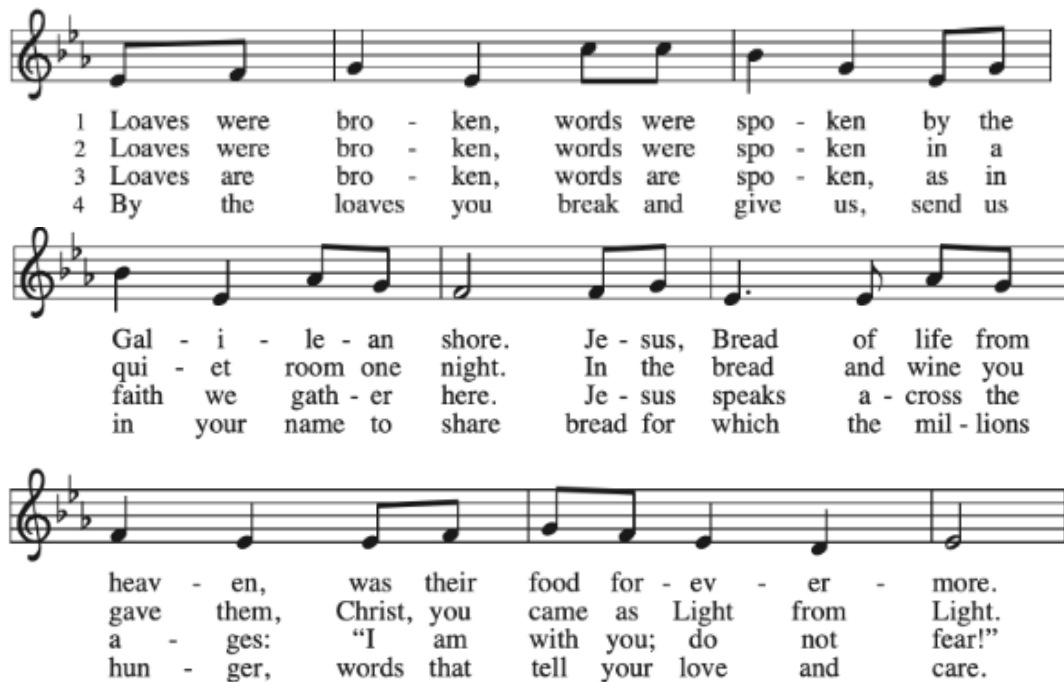


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Hymn

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions
heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: “I am with you; do not fear!”
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain

By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your
 wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your
 peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW 798

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

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

ELW 774

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Worship
SERVICES

“Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning! **TODAY** we are back with our **TWO** Worship Services, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Facebook Live at

10:00 a.m. *Join us in between 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 next week and don't forget to Bring a Friend!!



*****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 ☩

Altar Flowers are given in celebration of
Cammie & Michael Abraham's 25th Wedding Anniversary ❤️
and
Two Red Roses in honor of Karen & Don Schroeder's
50th Wedding Anniversary ❤️

Sunday Morning Adult Forum Series

Join US for our Adult Bible Series, "Held in Trust," intended to help us see our whole lives in response to God's goodness. We will meet between services (from about 9:15-9:45 a.m.) in the library. This is 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. In today's session, we will learn how "*Everything Is God's*": Sources for Stewardship. Upcoming sessions: *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*



Three To Receive First Communion!

Today at our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service we will celebrate with Andrew Carman, Addison Carman, and Trevor Nye, as they receive their First Communion and receive the gifts of Christ's body and blood in the bread and cup **FOR YOU!**

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 Thursday 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 YouTube. Come check out what it means to be freed... for love!

Welcome Table Wednesdays

Please join us, children, families, and adults for our second Welcome Table Wednesday! Dinner will be open to all from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Then at 7:00 p.m., we 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 here for CHOIR bring your kiddos along as this is a great chance for them to do fun and faithful activities with music, art, stories, and games while you SING!)* We wrap up by 8:00 p.m. so you will have the rest of your evenings after that! Please sign up each week if you plan to attend so we know how many to expect! Thank you and see you there!

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! 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!



Join us for a brand-new event here at Community of Christ that is meant for people of all ages: our first-ever **FESTIVAL OF TALENTS** coming up on **Saturday, Sep. 28 at 7:00 p.m.** Join us for a program featuring performed talents (musical and otherwise) from across our congregation—and sign up to share one of your own, too! And then after the program in the sanctuary, peruse

our gallery of visual and other talents in our Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space along with displays from the committees and ministries of our congregation as they invite you to share your talents here at Community of Christ in the year ahead! This will be a fun time for all, we hope, and we would love you to join us—and bring a friend!

Social Action Reboots as Standing Committee and Ministry

At Community of Christ, we have lots of opportunities to participate in projects and ministries that serve our neighbors and respond to needs in the wider world. From the quilting ministry of the Material Girls whose finished quilts go around the world through Lutheran World Relief to our collections of items for school kits or migrant workers to our partnerships with friends on the North End at Salem or at the garden beds of Urban Wholistics, there are many ways to be involved in social ministry through Community of Christ. But up to this point, what we haven't had is a way of coordinating these individual projects together. That can mean that people miss out on opportunities or that we end up with numerous events in a short period rather than spread out evenly on the calendar for easier participation. That's why we're trying something new this fall: we're rebooting our various social ministry projects to bring them together in a regular meeting committee, to help keep our social action ministries organized for the future. We'll still do the projects and activities that people are passionate about—don't worry!—but we hope to make sure our left hand and right hand know what each other is doing. If you have ideas for new kinds of social action ministries that you would like to see happen at Community of Christ, or if you are willing to help us coordinate and carry Social Action Ministry into the future, we invite you to join us for an organization meeting on **September 17, at 7:00 p.m.** here at Community of Christ!

Walkers Needed! The Roche de Boeuf Parade is the cornerstone of the Roche de Boeuf Festival. Local bands and organizations make their way through downtown Waterville as a kickoff to the festival. As another way of celebrating 50 years of making Jesus known in Whitehouse, Ohio, Community of Christ Lutheran Church is participating in this year's parade! Saturday, September 28, line-up time will be

between 9:00-9:30 a.m. If you wish to help celebrate and walk in this year's parade, please sign up at the kiosk!!!

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!



What's Happening This Week?



Confirmation Class Today
Sunday, September 15, 12:30 – 2 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday, September 17
Social Action Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 17
Book Club
Tuesday, September 17
Welcome Table Wednesday
Wednesday, September 18
Choir Practice
Wednesday, September 18
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, September 19
Bell Choir
Thursday, September 19



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!