

Community of Christ
Blue Jean Sunday
Sunday, September 8, 2024



“Making Jesus Known”



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Musical Prelude

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and
“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

The Band

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

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.**

Hymn

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Refrain

Shine Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Fathers Glory
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow
Flood the nation with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word.
Lord and let there be light.

Lord the light of your love is shining.
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me. Shine on me. (*Refrain*)

As we gaze on Your Kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from Glory to Glory,
Nearer here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me. Shine on me. (*Refrain*)

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

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high (**Repeat**)

Prayer of the Day

P Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a} the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L Here ends the Reading **C Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading: James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You

shall love your neighbor as yourself.”⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹ For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.¹³ For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L Here ends the Reading C Thanks be to God!

Allelujah Verse

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The Holy Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

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

²⁴ [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

²⁷ He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he

sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

Sermon

“A Planned Detour”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Shout to the Lord”

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Prayer

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 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 Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among people in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery; **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....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. 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.

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 **Hymn**

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 583

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*
- 2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*

4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

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**

Sanctus Hymn

“You Are Holy”

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more
than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near.

Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy,

you are wholeness,

you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest!

Sing hosanna!

Sing hosanna to our God! **(Repeat)**

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

“Change My Heart, O God”

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.
You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

“Gather Us In”

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,

gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

Sending Hymn

“We Are Marching in the Light ”

ELW 866

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching.)
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching.)
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing . . .
We are praying . . .
We are singing . . .

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

Thank you to Eric Dickey and our Musical Guests: Amanda Worthington and Chad Ackerman, Vocals; Mark Lemle, Sax; Will Kinsey, Drums; Kevin Eikum, Bass; Vince Krolak, Trumpet

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, that his people might receive strength for the living out our days! If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Community of Christ!



*****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 by Kathryn Whitacre. Blessing on the marriage of Leah Whitacre & Travis Podolak on 9-7-2024 ❤️

SING WITH US! On Tuesday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m. we will be at the Blue Creek Nursing Home, 11239 Waterville St., Whitehouse, for our monthly sing-along. Everyone is encouraged to attend and join us.

Worship SERVICES

REMINDER! Two Services Are Back!

**** Starting NEXT Sunday,
September 15****

We're excited to announce that next Sunday, 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.

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

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!

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!

This Saturday is our Spiritual Gifts Workshop from 9:00-12:00, starting with a light breakfast at 8:45. 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 and Laurie Mauro



Visitation Ministry
Monday, September 9
Church Council
Tuesday, September 10
Christian Education Teacher/Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 10
Welcome Table Wednesday
Wednesday, September 11
Choir Practice
Wednesday, September 11
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, September 12
Bell Choir
Thursday, September 12
Spiritual Gifts Workshop
Saturday, September 14

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!

