



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Second Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“We Will Meet Again” by Bill Evans

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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

ELW 597

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.**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

P God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

"Courage Like a Chicken"

Pastor Stephen Bond

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and

terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

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

The Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

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

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you,

you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' ”

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

Temple Talk

Jennifer Bohnsack, spokesperson, Isaiah 117 House

Hymn

“Thy Holy Wings”

ELW 613

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

AM Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Larry Geer, Luke Holtz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Martina Benton, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Paula Gruhler, Lisa Boltz, Eric Lewis, Staci, Jim, David, Carolyn, Suzette, Sandy McPherson, Warren Kingsley, Jennifer Taylor, Carolyn Newman, Karen Meyer....** and all that we remember in silence. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, especially Karen Schroeder. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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 Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, 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”



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn

“Bread of Life From Heaven”

ELW 474

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Making Jesus Known”

You're invited to join us for worship at one of our TWO services, either at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. You can attend in person or tune in via Facebook Live. We can't wait to see you – and feel free to BRING A FRIEND! Interested in becoming a member? Please fill out the information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We would love to welcome you into our church family!

When God Breaks the Rules: A Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

We often picture God as the Giver of Rules and the Maker of Laws (including, obviously, the ones literally written in stone like the Ten Commandments). But what about the times in the Bible when God does a new thing, moves in a new direction, or expands the old order of the world? What about when God *breaks* the rules? This is what we are looking at in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study series. Join us for our new original ten-part study that Pastor Steve is calling *When God Breaks the Rules*. We are learning about how God overturned the customs and traditions of the day from the earliest stories in our Bible to times when Jesus broke with the inherited traditions of the Respectable Religious Teachers of his day, to the movement of the New Testament era church as the Spirit led the first Christians across lines and borders to the ends of the earth with Jesus' love. Join us this Thursday **at 1:00 p.m.** in the council room for our journey in the expansive, surprising, and often rebellious ways of God! All are welcome!

Walking the Jesus Way: Lessons from the Didache

Walking the Jesus Way (Lessons from the Didache) It's not just about hearing Bible verses on Sunday only to have them go in one ear and out the other, but about a way of life—a life shaped in Jesus' likeness. So, what could it look like to live the Jesus way of life today? And what wisdom can we gather from the early disciple community? That's what our Sunday Adult Forum will be exploring, which we're calling, "Walking the Jesus Way." This series will make use of an ancient document that goes back to the late first century or the early second, a writing called "The Didache," which means "The Teaching [of the Apostles]." It may well be as old as some of the later books of the New Testament itself, and it gives a glimpse not only of the early church's life and witness but also offers a pattern for our own lives walking in the Jesus way. This Lent, as we focus especially on rededicating and recentering our lives on the way of Jesus, this series will be a great chance both to learn some ancient church history and to connect to present-day life application. We hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall from 9:00-9:50 a.m. for this series as together we *walk the Jesus way!*

Join us for our Lenten Service and Soup Suppers, each Wednesday, through April 9. We invite you to a meaningful time of reflection and fellowship. The Lenten Wednesday services, at 7:00 p.m., will offer time for prayer during this sacred season. Before the service, we will gather for a warm and inviting Soup Supper starting at 6:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect as we journey together through Lent. Please sign up at the kiosk to let us know what you can bring. We look forward to sharing this special time with you!

Social Action Ministry Invites You to “Have Mercy” and Share It Boldly This Lent Weekly in our worship life, we pray, sing, and confess our need for it: the mercy of God. From the ancient call-and-response rhythm of the Kyrie, “Lord, have mercy...” to our sung acclamation before the gospel, “Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful...” to the prayer petitions and well-known hymns of centuries past, we are grounded in the mercy of God. And as Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Plain, we are called to “be merciful, just as your Father in merciful” (Luke 6:36). Mercy is both our hope and our calling, and the church’s season of Lent is a fitting time to be focused again on both of those since these forty days leading to Holy Week point us toward God’s mercy poured out for us in the cross and resurrection of Jesus. With all of that in mind, the Social Action Ministry invites you to make a statement this Lent that calls to mind both our prayer to God and Jesus’ instruction to us to “have mercy.” These new stickers and lapel buttons, each featuring the simple message, “Have mercy,” will be available in the Gathering Space all throughout Lent, and we would invite your suggested donation for one of \$5.00, which can just go in the slotted box alongside the display, and all our proceeds will go to the ministry of Isaiah 117 House as they seek to show mercy to children in Northwestern Ohio who are going through foster placement (read more about their work in a separate article in this newsletter!). We hope you’ll boldly put one of these stickers or buttons on something you wear or carry around with you as a way to start a conversation, prompt a faith conversation, or to remind you both of God’s grace and our calling to be merciful people. Get yours in the Gathering Space and help support Isaiah 117 House! Join us in welcoming a special guest from the Isaiah 117 House, who will be sharing more information during our 8 and 10 a.m. services!

Next Sunday at 3:00 p.m. the Concert Committee welcomes you to join us as we are hosting the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble. A free-will offering will be taken to support Lutheran Disaster Relief and the Community of Christ building fund. 100% of donations through the Lutheran Disaster Relief Response go to services. Zero dollars are spent on administration.



2025 Altar Flower Sponsorships Available
The 2025 Altar Flower sponsorship weekends are open for selection. Tags and envelopes are available in the hallway to the left as you enter through the front doors. For office tracking, once you've chosen your weekend, please leave the tag on the bulletin board, do not take it home. To ensure your sponsorship

is included in the bulletin, payment envelopes must be submitted by Sunday before your selected weekend. For any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with the church office. Your support is truly appreciated—thank you!

Swingmania Concert and Burger Bar Night

Get ready for a good time as Community of Christ hosts a **Burger Bar Dinner, Charitable Auction, and a Concert and Dance** featuring the music of **Swingmania**, all on one big night! Mark your calendars now for the evening of **April 12!** We'll have a dinner open for church members at 5:00 p.m. featuring burgers, chips, coleslaw, and ice cream, followed by a charitable auction event at 6:00 p.m. with a wide assortment of prizes whose proceeds will benefit Genacross Lutheran Services. At 7:00 p.m. there is a concert with room for dancing, all to the musical styles of Swingmania! If that sounds like a good time to you, get your tickets today! Sunday mornings, the concert committee will have a table for both the dinner and the concert. You can participate in either or both! The wider community will be able to get tickets for the concert, however, the dinner is limited to Community of Christ folks because of space limitations. Get your tickets on Sundays or through the church office during the week. Meal tickets will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for kids 10 and under, and concert tickets are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for couples, and \$10.00 for kids 10 and under. The whole evening's events will also help to benefit both our Community of Christ Building Fund as well as Lutheran Disaster Relief, as with other concerts hosted by the Concert Committee. Tickets will be available throughout the month or as long as they last, so get yours early, and plan to join us for a great night on Saturday, April 12!

The Ladies Lunch Bunch! We will meet on **Friday, March 28th.** We will be dining at the new Mexican restaurant 'Acapulco's' @ 11:30. It is located @ 10335 Waterville St., Whitehouse. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. All ladies are invited & bring a friend! Questions?? Please contact Becky King @ 419-349-7319.

This Week

Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday, March 18, 8:30 a.m.
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, March 18, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club
Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 p.m.
Soup Supper
Wednesday, March 19, 6:00 p.m.
Lenten Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.
Choir
Wednesday, March 19, 7:45 p.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
Thursday, March 20, 1:00 p.m.
Confirmation
Thursday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Lily Orders

Celebrate Easter by ordering a beautiful Lily for our Easter morning services! You can honor or remember a loved one by dedicating your flower in their name.

To meet vendor deadlines, all orders must be submitted to the church no later than Sunday, April 6. Please pick up an envelope from the center table in the gathering space to place your order. Thank you!

