



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 23, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Stephen C. Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“My Song” by Keith Jarrett

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**

“Before the Water Nourished Earth”

**ACS 1049**



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -  
 2 This Love re - maind as time re - vealed the loss of  
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows  
 4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - in<sup>3</sup>ed morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the  
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in  
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's  
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.  
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.  
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.  
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

### 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** Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Childrens Sermon

**Anthem 10:00 a.m.**

“Come to the Water”

Choir

## THE READINGS

### **The First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9**

- <sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

### **The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

- <sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same

spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

**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 13:1-9**

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

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for

one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

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

**Sermon**

*"The Door is Left Open"*

*Pastor Stephen Bond*

**Hymn**

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

**ELW 624**

**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** We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all people. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, so that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for comfort for those who have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion and all who are ill; **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, Virginia Dillon, Sam Kenney, Eric Lewis, Staci, Jim, David, Carolyn, Suzette, Sandy McPherson, Warren Kingsley, Jennifer Taylor, Carolyn Newman, Karen Meyer, Jason Rupp, Carol Mason, the Gottwald family....** and all those we remember in silence. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended, especially Karen Schroeder and Carl Gottwald. May their witness inspire our own. 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**

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

**ELW 623**

### **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.**

## Sending Hymn

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

ELW 618

## 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!

**TODAY! 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.

### **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!

## Swingmania Ticket Auction Benefits Genacross Lutheran Social Services

We invite you to participate in our ticket auction at Swingmania by donating a basket, and or purchasing tickets on the night of the auction! Please bring your completed basket to the church office no later than **Wednesday, April 2nd**. Baskets should be ready to be placed on the auction tables. Thank you to those who have already donated items!

Here's how the auction will work:

- Participants can purchase auction tickets on the night of the event.
- Tickets are \$1 each, or you can get 25 tickets for \$20.
- After purchasing your tickets, you can place as many as you wish in the box next to the item(s) you'd like to win.
- Winners will be announced during the event.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office. Thank you for your support! All proceeds from the auction will benefit Genacross Lutheran Social Services.



**Saturday  
April 12, 2025  
7:00 - 9:00+**  
**Community of Christ  
Lutheran Church**  
6517 Finzel Road  
Whitehouse, Ohio  
419-877-0607

A benefit dance for  
Lutheran Disaster Response  
& the church building fund.  
Donation for tickets:  
\$25 per person  
\$40 per couple  
available at the church office

**Swingmania**

Come ready to cut a  
rug in your finest  
outfit from the 30's,  
40's or 50's...  
Poodle skirts, WWII,  
saddle shoes...

or just listen to  
some great  
big band music



**SILENT AUCTION ALSO**  
Auction proceeds benefit Genacross  
Lutheran Social Services





Altar Flowers are given by Carol Wiemken in loving memory of  
**Ronald Wiemken** ♥♥

## This Week

<b>Ladies Bible Study</b>
Tuesday, March 25, 8:30 a.m.
<b>Conversations and More</b>
Tuesday, March 25, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Stewardship</b>
Tuesday, March 25, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Soup Supper</b>
Wednesday, March 26, 6:00 p.m.

<b>Lenten Wednesday Service</b>
Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Choir</b>
Wednesday, March 26, 7:45 p.m.
<b>Pastor's Bible Study</b>
Thursday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Memorial Service for Jerry &amp; Dayle Reed</b>
Saturday, March 29, 1:00 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!**





Hey friends! We wanted to make sure you all know that the neighboring congregation Epiphany Lutheran in Toledo is putting on a production of Godspell at the end of March and the beginning of April. This show will feature our own Amanda Worthington as part of the cast! If you want to get tickets, you can go to [www.EpiphanyLutheranChurch.com](http://www.EpiphanyLutheranChurch.com). See a great show that retells the stories of Jesus with memorable music!