



Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Pavane” by Maurice Ravel

Sarah Magoun, Violin, Eric Dickey, Piano

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the living God, who is, who was, and who is to come, and of Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain and yet lives victorious. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, let us give thanks to God who has claimed us forever in these waters:

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving

Holy God,

We give you thanks for making us your own by your promise at the waters.

We give you thanks for pulling us into Jesus’ risen life to follow him in hope all our days.

We give you thanks for breathing your Spirit into us, as you did in the beginning when you brooded over the waters at creation, to make us a part of your new creation.

We give you thanks for who you are, O God, and for who you have made us to be in Christ.

Because of God’s goodness, we are freed from our old captivity to sin and the deadness of our own lives. Joyfully, then, let us come into God’s presence in the full knowledge of who and Whose we are, through Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One!

Amen

Gathering Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ELW 834

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



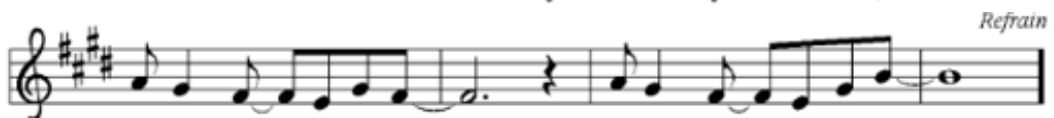
- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



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 Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit, we may love one another and the world you have made, 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

“Suite Italienne” by Igor Stravinsky

Sarah Magoun, Violin, Eric Dickey, Piano

THE READINGS

The First Reading: ACTS 16:9-15

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.

¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

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

The Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

¹⁰ And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the

nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: John 14:23-29

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

²³ Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

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

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 God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in a deeper relationship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Gracious God, you sustain all creation with your loving care, giving rain and sun to seeds, strength to farmers who till the soil, and food for all creatures. In this season of planting, we pray for your gifts of sun and rain in the right balance for fields to be planted, for seedling to sprout, and for a bountiful harvest in due time, so that all may be fed. Strengthen farmers, harvesters, and those who care for the soil. Bless those who work in the pre-dawn hours and hot noonday sun alike. Bless us to be faithful

caretakers of the earth. And bless the world you have created so that all may flourish. Hear Us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling *especially* **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Luke Holtz, Lisa Boltz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Virginia Dillon, Sam Kenney, Warren Kingsley, Staci, Martina Benton, Rich Rison, Lisa, Kelsey S., Amy Meagher, Iris Rockwell, Natalie Rilling, Austin Minni, Matt Jurrus ...** and all that we remember in silence. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, so that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ, especially Pete James. Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen 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, please be seated for the Offering

Offering Anthem

“Allemande from Partita No. 2” by J.S. Bach

Sarah Magoun, Violin

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 Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **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

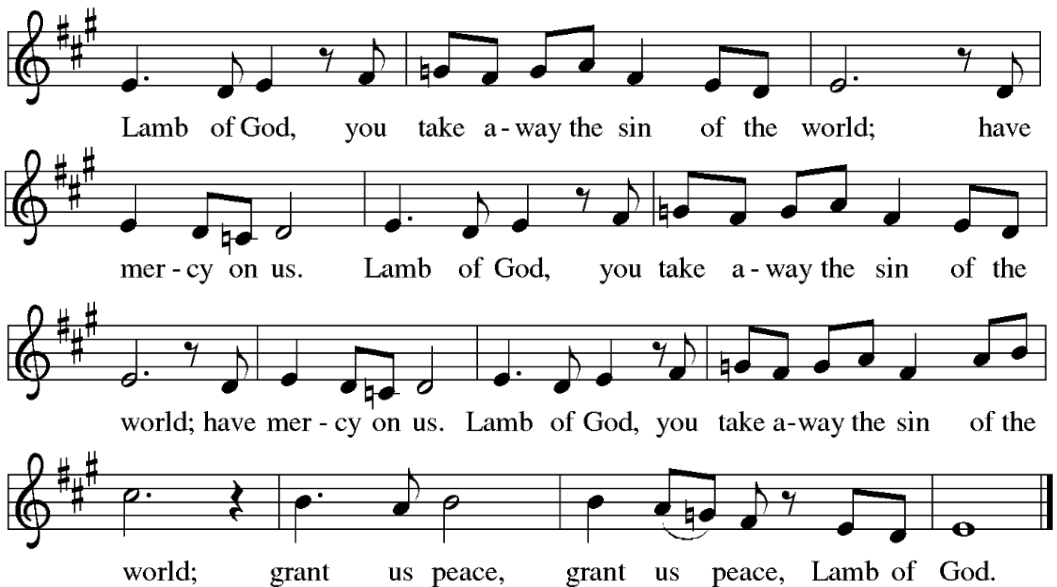
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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.

Communion Anthem

“Mercy” by Max Richter

Sarah Magoun, Violin, Eric Dickey, Piano

Hymn

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

ELW 628

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements: Honoring our 2025 High School Graduates

The Blessing

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“We Are Marching in the Light”

ELW 866

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. In Christ, you are made new. **Thanks be to God!**

AM And next week, **bring a friend!**

Postlude

“Alignment” by Eric Dickey

Sarah Magoun, Violin, Eric Dickey, Piano

Making Jesus Known”

You're Invited! Join us for worship this Summer every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.—either in person or via Facebook Live. We’d love to see you there, and don’t forget to bring a friend! Interested in becoming a member? Just fill out your information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We’d be honored to welcome you into our church family!

New Thursday Bible Study Series: Join us for our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, The Book of Judges, with a look at the Old Testament book we call “Judges.” This interesting book explores the time in Israel’s history between the settling down in the land after the wilderness wanderings and the rise of kings like Saul and David, and it offers a window into what happens in a community when everyone is left to their own devices. The book of Judges also reminds us of God’s patient, enduring love even in the face of our persistent sin, so there is a word of hope and grace even through the worst periods of history, too! If this sounds like something you would like to learn more about, join us in the Council Room (where the Thursday Bible Study usually meets) at 1:00 p.m. to dig into the Word together!

Adult Forum this April: Imaging the Word Join us today for our **final** Adult Forum, *Imaging the Word: Symbols, Icons, and Art Connecting with Faith* at about 10:15 a.m. after worship. We’ll explore some of the central symbols of the Christian faith, what they signify, where they come from, and how they have been used over the course of the last 2,000 years. We’ll also explore how traditions like the Eastern Orthodox churches make use of a particular stylized form of artistic depictions of biblical figures and stories in *icons*, and how to understand the way they use imagery to convey meaning. And we’ll also stick our toes in the world of art history and see how artists, sculptors, and painters have used visual media to connect to our faith, both in some familiar ways and some surprising ways.

Conversations and More – Join us for engaging conversations and more on Friday, May 30, at 1:00 p.m. We’ll be taking a summer break, but we’ll be back with a lunch gathering on Tuesday, September 9th! Feel free to bring a friend along!

Bridge of Hope assists migrant workers with a food pantry, resources, and outreach to the Hispanic community and seasonal migrants. They are in need of assistance from their neighbors to help continue to make this ministry successful. If you can help with any of the following items: empty egg cartons, plastic laundry baskets, deodorant, detergent, lunch boxes, new pillows, can openers, dry beans, dry rice, thinner long-sleeve shirts, toothbrushes and paste, sunscreen, new or gently used pillowcases, new or gently used towels & wash clothes, new or gently used drink jugs, hats, socks, work

gloves, sunglasses, toilet paper & paper towels, please place any donations in the box in the Gathering space **by June 1, 2025. Thank you!**

Summer Spiritual Practice group “In The Presence of God”

This summer, as part of Vicar Natalie's internship project, we will be offering a weekly Summer Spiritual Practice group. The goal of this group is to learn a variety of ways to pray and draw close to God and to contribute to the NW Ohio Synod's theme of the Year of Listening. The spiritual practice group will meet on **Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.** in the fellowship hall starting **June 5th and ending August 28th** (no class July 3rd). There will be a variety of pastors from the community who will help teach and lead the spiritual practice, including Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Pastor Sarah Schaaf (NW Ohio Synod), Pastor Warren Clifton (Hope United Methodist - Whitehouse), Pastor Matt Musteric (St. Peter's Lutheran -Martin/St. Luke's Lutheran-Curtis), Vicar Jacinda Jones (St. John's Lutheran - Findlay), Pastor Chris Hanley (Glenwood Lutheran Church - Toledo), Pastor Meg Boger (Zion Lutheran - Waterville), Laurie Mauro, Pastor Steve Bond, and Vicar Natalie. Some spiritual practices include Taizé worship, centering prayer, praying with beads, visio divina, praying the labyrinth, Legos as spiritual practice, art, walking meditation - prairie meadow, improv, hymn singing. This is an *intergenerational group*, meaning all ages are encouraged and welcome to attend! For some practices, kids will break off into a separate group. Sign-ups for this event will be available at the kiosk or on SignUp Genius on our website at www.commofchrist.org by clicking the “Worship & Events Signups” button starting in May. We request that you RSVP for the dates you are planning to attend, so we can plan for supplies. If any kids will be attending, please enter how many and their ages, or 0 if not applicable.

WE NEED YOU to get your walking shoes on! The 42nd annual Whitehouse **Cherry Fest** is coming up, and we'd love for you to join the Outreach Committee in walking in the parade on **Saturday, June 14th**. The 1-mile stroll lines up on Oakbrook Drive at noon, and the parade kicks off at 1 p.m. and takes you down Waterville Street to Providence Street and through downtown Whitehouse. Candy for passing out will be provided; just bring your smile! Please sign up on the sheet located at the kiosk; the exact meeting spot on Oakbrook will be determined closer to parade day.

Kids Summer Reading Program This summer, Community of Christ will be offering a summer reading program for kids. All summer, the Gathering space will house a bookshelf with ten different faith-based picture books for kids to read throughout the summer. Kids are encouraged to pick up a reading checklist, which lists all of the books to read. They can check out up to two books per week by signing out the books on the cards found inside each book and placing them in the "check-out" slot at the bottom of the bookcase. When they are finished reading and return the books, they can

take a sticker from the bookshelf and add it to their reading checklist to keep track of what they have read. Once they have read all the books, they can see Vicar Natalie for a prize! The books we are reading include: Found: Psalm 23, Where God Lives, The Apostles' Creed: For All God's Children, Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus, Who is My Neighbor?, Maybe God is Like That Too, The Marvelous Mustard Seed, God's Holy Darkness, God Created, What is the Bible?

Calling All Youth (Grades 5-12) and All Drivers of Dirty Cars!

Our community-wide Anthony Wayne Area Youth group is planning on hosting a car wash here to raise money for Neighborhood Bridges (which connects needs in the community with resources to meet them). For our youth, we would LOVE you to join us in a fun way to serve our community, and for the congregation, we would LOVE you to come get your car washed and support a good cause! **Join us Saturday, June 7, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** at Community of Christ for fun with friends while raising funds for a great cause right here in our own community! For our participating youth, a pizza lunch will be provided after the car wash. Sign up to help lend a hand at our car wash at this QR code or link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAEAA2AA0F8C34-56689208-awyouth>

The Anthony Wayne Neighborhood Bridges program links community members to opportunities to help district students and their families with needs such as food, clothing, and more. To learn more about the program, visit www.neighborhoodbridges.org/community/anthonywayne. To subscribe, enter an email address. The program is also on Facebook. For questions, email anthonywayne@neighborhoodbridges.org.



2025 Community of Christ Days and Olivet at Urban Wholistics Farms

Spend a morning at the farm with us! There are plenty of ways to help: support Sonia with the children's gardening program, assist at the kids' farm stand, or pitch in with general farm maintenance. Bring your kids or grandkids, there's something for everyone.

We'll be visiting on these Saturdays from 9:00–11:00 a.m.

- May 31
- June 28
- July 26

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. if you'd like to caravan. If you'd like to drive from your home, the address is: Urban Wholistics, Tatum Park by SONIA Organics, 1209 City Park, Toledo, OH 43604. Look for a sign-up sheet for each of these dates. Any questions? Call Sarah Rockwell – 419-261-2843



Hymn Sing Sundays! Come prepared to shout out your FAVORITE HYMNS as the congregation gets to choose on the first Sunday of the month! Join us on Sunday, June 1, July 6, and August 3 at our 9:00 a.m. services!

Congratulations and Christ's Blessings to our 2025 High School Graduates!



As you take your next steps, may you go with open hearts and steady hope. May the lessons you've learned and the friendships you've made stay with you, offering strength and comfort. Wherever life leads, may you find joy in the journey, peace in the pauses, and purpose in each new day. You are celebrated, you are cherished, and you are ready.



**Altar Flowers given by Carol Heuerman
in memory of Roger and the family** ❤️



**Sunday mornings, @ 9:00 a.m.,
both in person and Facebook Live**

Church Office Closed
Monday, May 26
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, May 29, 1:00 p.m.
Internship Committee
Thursday, May 29, 6:30 p.m.
Conversations and More
Friday, May 30, 1:00 p.m.
Confirmation Dinner
Friday, May 30, 6:00 p.m.
Confirmation
Sunday, June 1



Big Things Coming up This June in Worship!

Coming up for the month of June, we've got several really special celebrations happening in worship, and we want you to join us for all of them at our 9:00 a.m. service!

June 1—Confirmation

Five of our young people have completed our two-year confirmation program (with a year focused on the Bible and a year in the Small Catechism) and will be confirmed on June 1. This milestone of faith is a time of *affirming their baptism*—to say “yes” back to the God who has already said “Yes!” to them first, and to choose to continue growing in their faith, discipleship, and service. Join us as Mark Bond, Andrew Carman, Ava Davis, James Fifer, and Trevor Nye are confirmed!

June 8—Pentecost and New Members

We tell the story of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (sometimes also called the “birthday of the church”) at Pentecost, and this year, we'll also welcome new members into the congregation!

June 15—Gifts in Honor of Father's Day

As we did with gifts for the women of the congregation on Mother's Day, we will have special thank-you gifts for the men of the congregation as we give thanks to God for dads and stepdads, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and the other men God places in our lives.



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!