



# *Community of Christ Lutheran Church*

*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

*June 22, 2025, 9:00 a.m.*

*Pastor Stephen C. Bond*



## THE GATHERING

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Minuet” by J.S. Bach,

Eric Dickey

**Gathering Hymn**


“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

**ELW 510**


**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.**


*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*  
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

*Refrain*  
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

P O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy, set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Ministry Moment--Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative

### Childrens Sermon

## THE READINGS

### The First Isaiah 65:1-9

<sup>1</sup> I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"  
to a nation that did not call on my name.

<sup>2</sup> I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;

<sup>3</sup> a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks;  
<sup>4</sup> who sit inside tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;  
<sup>5</sup> who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long.  
<sup>6</sup> See, it is written before me:  
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps  
<sup>7</sup> their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,  
says the LORD;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
full payment for their actions.  
<sup>8</sup> Thus says the LORD:  
As the wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, "Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,"  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.  
<sup>9</sup> I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
and from Judah, inheritors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall inherit it,  
and my servants shall settle there.  
**L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!**

## **The Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29**

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no

longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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



## **The Holy Gospel: Luke 8:26-39**

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

<sup>26</sup> Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time, he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—<sup>29</sup> for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion,"; for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup> Now, there on the hillside, a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So, he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup> When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So, he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> "Return to your home, and declare how

much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

**Sermon**

"Jesus and the Overlooked"

*Pastor Stephen Bond*

**Hymn**

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

**ELW 611**

**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 into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet and Christians in our community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence. When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick *especially* **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Luke Holtz, Lisa Boltz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake**

**Cope, Virginia Dillon, Sam Kenney, Staci, Martina Benton, Amy Meagher, Bev Howard, Brenda, Cheryl Garlow, Kian Schumaker, Lynne Lark, Charlie & Sandy Gorniak, Madelyn, Brenda...** and all that we remember in silence. Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith, especially Susie Donnal and Bill Garlow. Keep them in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**P** Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **THE MEAL**

*All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A "gluten-free" host option is available upon request as well.*

### **Sharing of the Peace**

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**

*Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.*

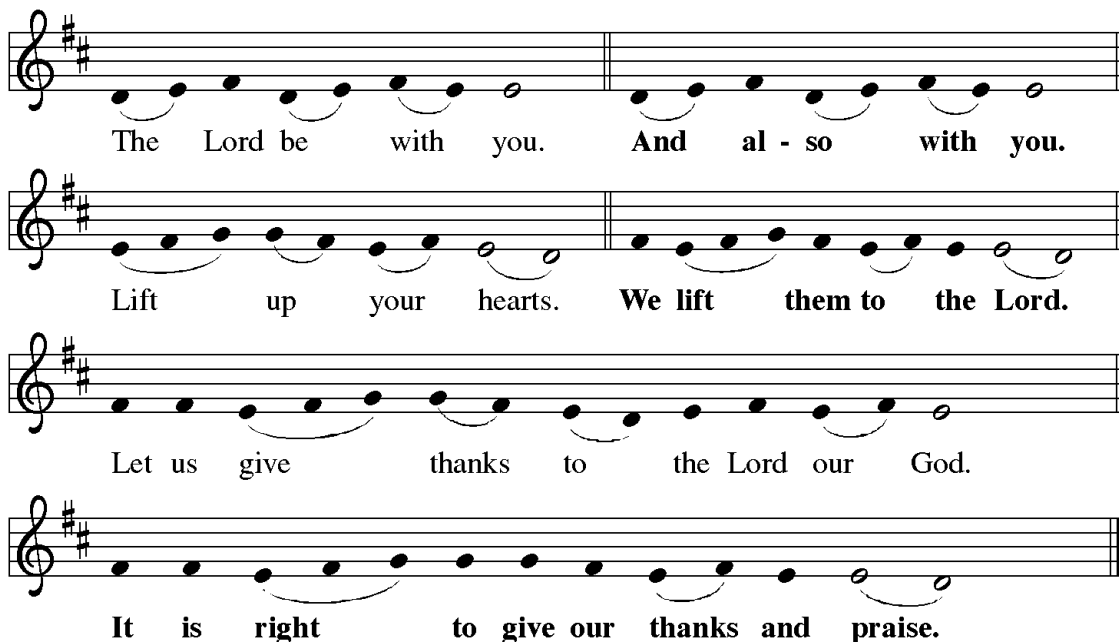
***The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.***

**Our Tithes and Offerings** *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

### **Offering Prayer**

**AM** Creator God, in your wisdom, you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving



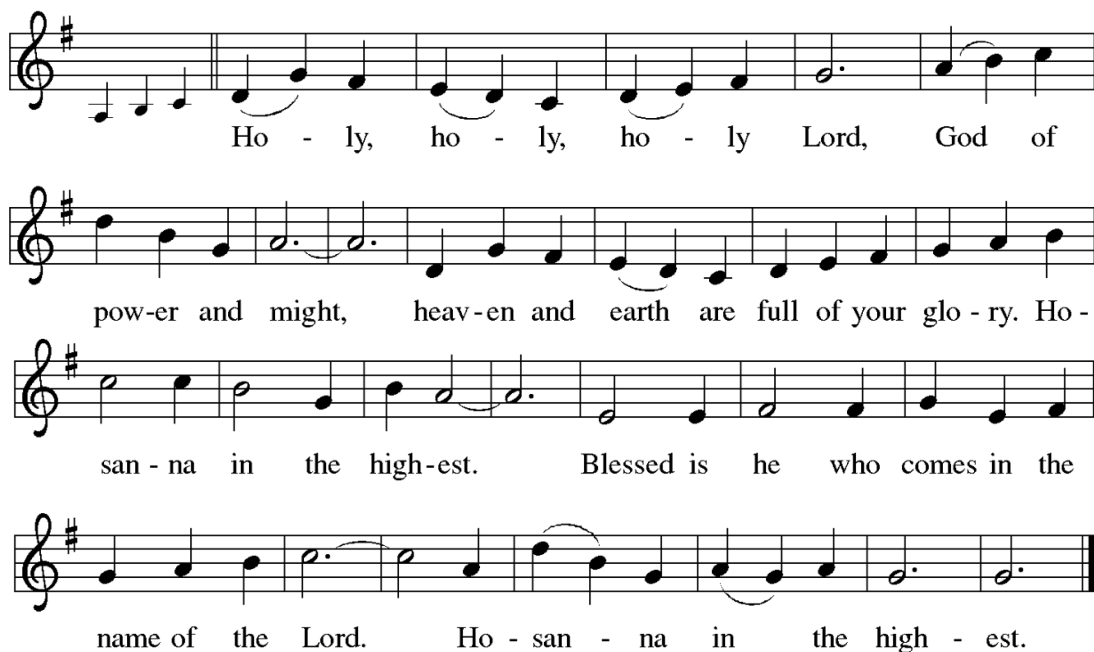
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*\*The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Words of Institution

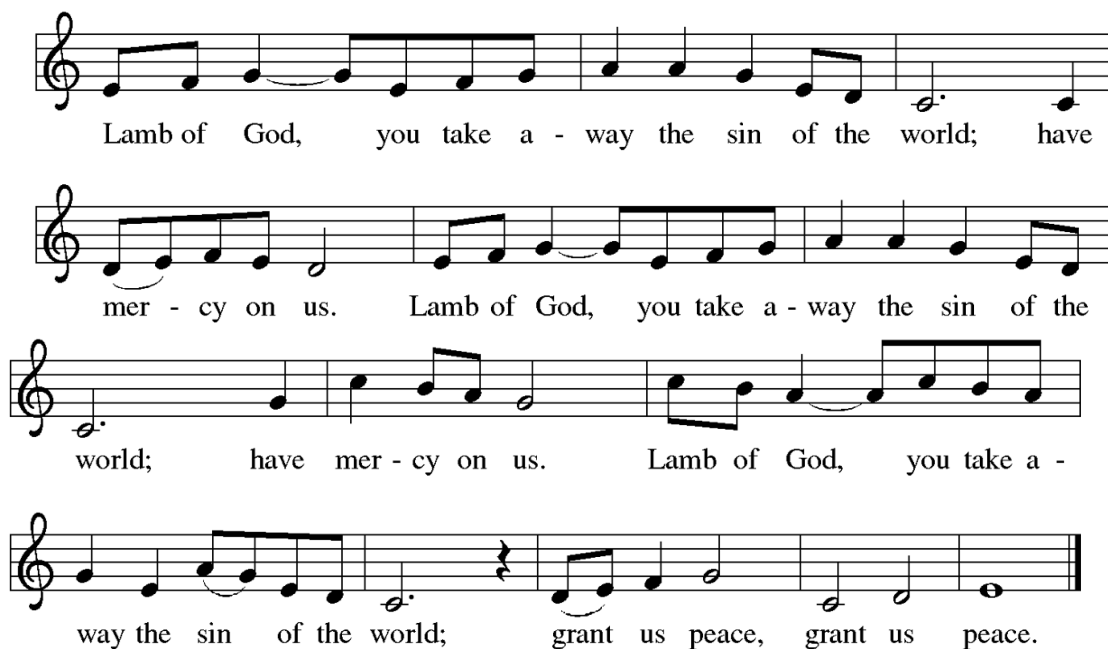
*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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

## Hymn

“One Bread, One Body”  
“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW 496  
ELW 798



## **Post Communion Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**AM** Mothering God, you gathered us to your table, and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

### ***Milestones & Announcements:***

#### **The Blessing**

**P** The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

**ELW 843**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God!**

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

# 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!

## **Hard Sayings Of Jesus—Summer Sunday Adult Forum**

Join us on Sunday mornings after worship for the summer edition of our Adult Sunday School class. We’ll gather in the council room (also the Thursday afternoon Bible study room) at about 10:15 a.m. for a new series that will take a look at some of the difficult sayings and actions of Jesus to explore what they mean (or what they don’t mean) and to unpack some otherwise complicated and challenging teachings of Jesus. What did Jesus mean when he said, “It’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom?” What about when Jesus said, “I have not come to bring peace, but a sword?” Why did Jesus overturn the moneychangers in the Temple? And what could be going on when Jesus told his disciples to leave behind parents, family, and children for the sake of following him? We’ll be looking at a different passage and a different “hard saying” each week, so come when you can, and join the conversation, each Sunday this summer, here at Community of Christ!

## **Good Trouble: A Study in Amos (Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.)**

In a time when people confused financial success with divine favor and focused on ritual rather than righteousness, God raised up a bold truth-teller and poet named Amos. And like all of the authentic prophets of ancient Israel, he was able to both comfort the afflicted... and to afflict the comfortable. Whether he was calling out the Respectable Religious Leaders of his day or pointing out how the most vulnerable of his society were being taken advantage of, Amos was willing to risk his reputation and his comfort in order to wake people up. He regularly got himself into what the late John Lewis used to call “good trouble.” And his witness is an important one for us today, as people who promise every time, we affirm our baptism that we will “strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” So, join us for an in-depth study of this prophet on Thursdays this summer as our next Thursday afternoon Bible study at 1:00 p.m., co-led by Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie. We’ll be starting up with this series on June 5, in the council room, and we’ll be offering weekly video summaries as well to catch up if you can’t join us in person around the table. We hope you’ll be a part of this summer-long series here at Community of Christ studying Amos!

## **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 **ending on August 28<sup>th</sup>** (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](http://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.

**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?

**Christian Group from Bethlehem (In the Holy Land!) is here today, June 22, 2025**, to share a Temple Talk during worship. We'll have a chance to hear about the present-day experience of Christians whose families have lived in the Holy Land for generations. After service, we will have a chance to peruse the display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem, which are available for purchase in the Gathering Space. HLCSC representative Dr. George Ghanem tells us, "These carvings include olive wood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels, and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter, and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread." Dr. Ghanem also reports that "More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depends upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades, those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to recurring bouts of war, the 12-yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and right now the catastrophic ongoing war in Gaza for the past nineteen months. Because of all of these factors, tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land, which has made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland without their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in a few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites. So, we invite you to learn more on June 22 and to consider helping to support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem, where Christ was born, by purchasing their carvings, from which all proceeds will go to support Christian families from Bethlehem. Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation.

**Will you help the Visitation Ministry** brighten the day of Blue Creek Nursing Center residents this summer? Many of these residents receive little mail, so we thought this would be a great way to lift up their day! 😊🦋💕 It's easy! Simply choose a cheerful card, write a sentence or two of a greeting, sign it from "A friend from Community of Christ", then place it in the appropriate bag on the kiosk, Birthday or Thinking of You.

The **June Ladies Lunch** is scheduled for June 27th at 11:30 a.m. This month, we will gather at 'The Garden at Brandywine,' located at 6904 Salisbury Rd, Maumee, OH 43537. Please remember to sign up at the kiosk for reservations. If you have any questions, feel free to call Becky King at 419-349-7319. Don't forget to bring a friend!

## **Outreach Invites You to “Be The Evidence of God’s Love” with New Apparel**



The folks at the Outreach Committee invite you to be faithful—and fashionable!—while we also raise money for a neighborhood cause this summer. We invite you to order one of these new t-shirts with an original design that says, "Be the evidence of God's love" on the front, and has our Community of Christ logo on the sleeve! We'll be taking orders through July and hope to have shirts available in August and definitely in time for Blue Jean Sunday at summer's end! These will be a great way to share your faith, encourage someone to show God's love, and help a good cause. The profits will be sent to

Neighborhood Bridges of Anthony Wayne Area for their weekend backpack food program for school students. Shirts are \$15.00. You can order in person on Sunday mornings by cash or check or use the electronic sign-up on Sign-Up Genius. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAEAA2AA0F8C34-57071426-community> If you have any questions, please contact one of the Outreach Committee members. Thank you! Committee Chairman: Greg Myers, Committee Members: Shelly Hayes, Rose Ackerman, Robin Fritz, Kristen Schuchman, Kari Swagler, Cindy Smigelski, Tammy Myers, Cammie Abraham, Pastor Steve

### **Daytime fellowship activity - An up-close look at God’s creation**

Are you a nature lover? Do you love a good story? Prepare yourself to be awed and amazed when you spend an hour with the masterpieces of a renowned, forgotten, and then recently re-introduced 17th-century artist, Rachel Ruysch. On Wednesday, July 9, at 1:00 p.m., join Lisa Alleman for a docent-led tour of the groundbreaking Rachel Ruysch: Nature Into Art exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art. The exhibition is free for museum members, \$10 for non-members, and parking is free. Come early for fellowship and lunch in the museum cafe at 11:45 or just come for the tour at 1:00. Sign up at the kiosk or in SignUp Genius at [commofchrist.org](http://commofchrist.org)

### **Fellowship Campfire Gathering at Community of Christ**

Join us Thursday June 26th at 8pm for fellowship around the campfire. Bring your chair and anything else you want to enjoy time around a campfire here on the church grounds. The makings for S'mores will be provided as a sweet treat! Hope to see you there!



## Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Join us for fellowship and baseball!

Cheer on our Toledo Mudhens as they take on the Memphis Redbirds.

- Sunday, July 20th at 4:05 p.m.
  - Tickets are \$11 each - **cash only**
  - Sign up by July 6th on the sign-up sheet on the kiosk!
- Pay Michelle or Chad.

For questions, call or text Chad Ackerman at 419-350-4879.  
Hope to see you there!



**Altar Flowers given by Neil and Susan Raymond  
in celebration of Sidney and Andrew's  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary!**

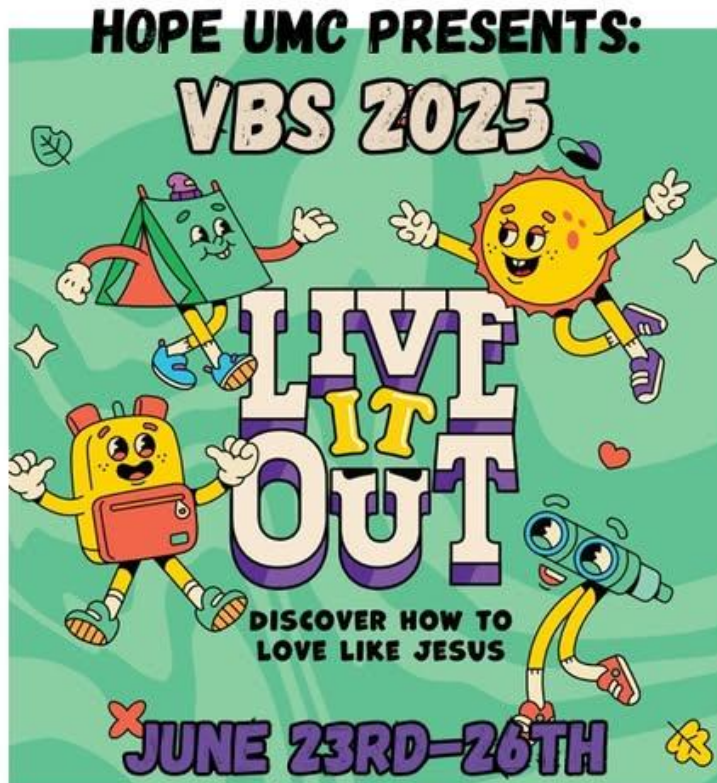
## What's Happening!



<b>Lay Internship</b>
Monday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Summer Story Time</b>
Tuesday, June 24, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Concert Committee</b>
Tuesday, June 24, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday Bible Study</b>
Thursday, June 26, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Spiritual Practices Series</b>
Thursday, June 26, 6:30
<b>Fellowship Campfire Event</b>
Thursday, June 26

**VBS 2025!** For kids and families who want to join up with the neighboring congregation, Hope United Methodist Church, for Vacation Bible School in the week of June 23-26, you can register by following the link or by scanning the QR code!

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSe9M7eJJ.../viewform...>



**9:30A-11:30A**

**SCAN HERE TO  
REGISTER  
YOUR CHILD**





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

**Church Office Hours**

**8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

(Monday through Friday)

**Please note.....**

Hours may vary with vacations.

Please call ahead ☺