



# Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Peter and Paul Apostles

June 29, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Stephen C. Bond



## THE GATHERING

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Allemande” by J.S. Bach

Eric Dickey

## 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 Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God’s children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

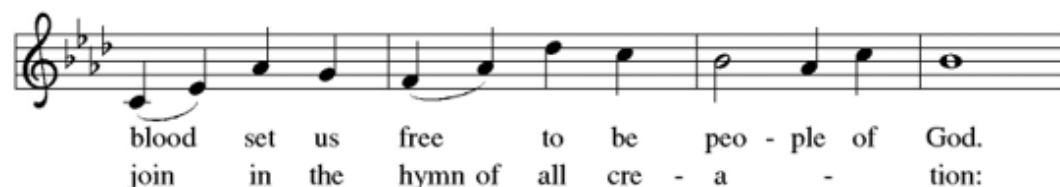
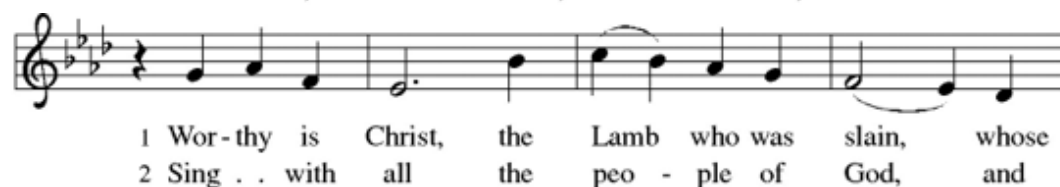
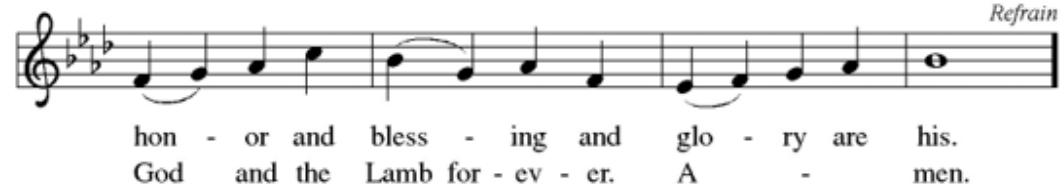
**Gathering Hymn**

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

**ELW 424**

**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**Refrain**Refrain*

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P** Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you through their faithful witness and preaching of the gospel. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Childrens Sermon**

### **THE READINGS**

#### **The First Reading: Acts 12:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup> After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup> When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup> While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

<sup>6</sup> The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup> The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." <sup>9</sup> Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup> After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup> Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

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

#### **The Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

<sup>8</sup> From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have

longed for his appearing.

<sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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



## **The Holy Gospel: John 21:15-19**

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

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

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

**Sermon**

"What Saints the Mortals Be"

*Vicar Natalie Downs*

**Hymn**

"Faith of Our Fathers"

**ELW 812**

## **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. As you raised up apostles like Peter and Paul, raise us up to share your life-giving gospel. Enrich the proclamation of bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for the earth. As you rescued Paul from the lion's mouth, rescue your creation from harm. Sustain fragile ecosystems; watch over dwindling numbers of insects, birds, and fish; and open our hearts to regard this earth as a gift. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for the nations. As you bid Peter to feed your sheep, bid our leaders to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict and bring justice to each community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for all who suffer. As you stood by Paul and gave him strength, stand by all who know loneliness, and give strength to all who know persecution. Comfort those in grief and heal those who are sick **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, Danny Romick, Graham Schwartz....** and all that we remember in silence. Channel our restlessness into your work in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We pray for this assembly. As you freed Peter from prison, free us from lethargy and fear. Loose the chains of timidity and doubt, and teach us to pray fervently. Strengthen the ministry of prison chaplains and ministries, and accompany all who are incarcerated and their families. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We give thanks for all who rest in your eternal mercy. As you reserved a crown of righteousness for Paul, reserve for us a place in your heavenly kingdom, and bring us to life that knows no end. 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



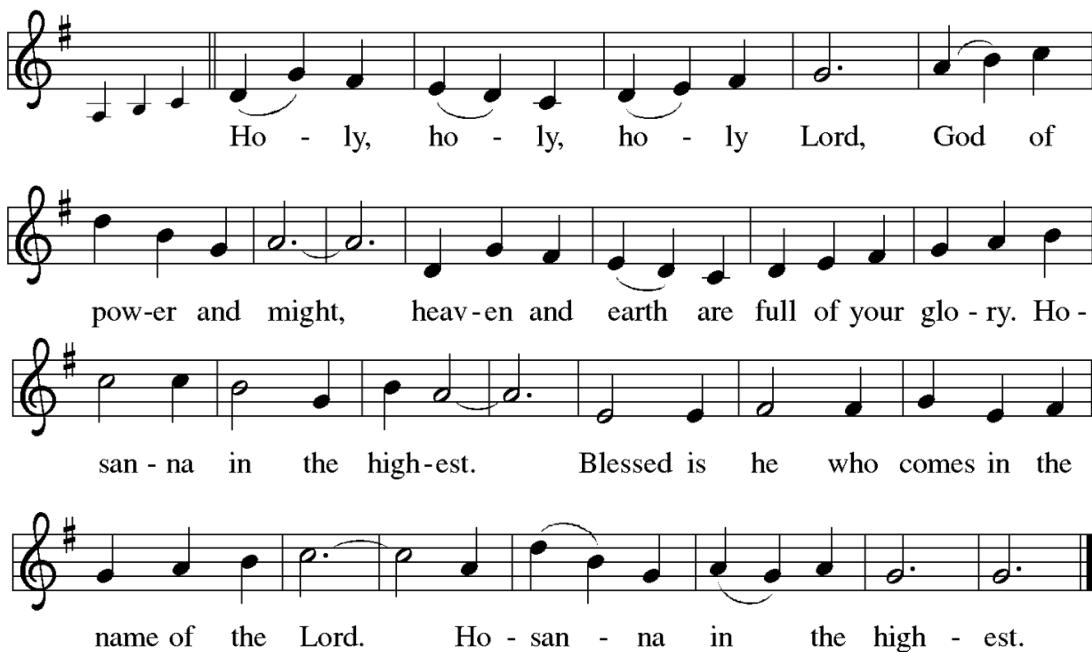
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

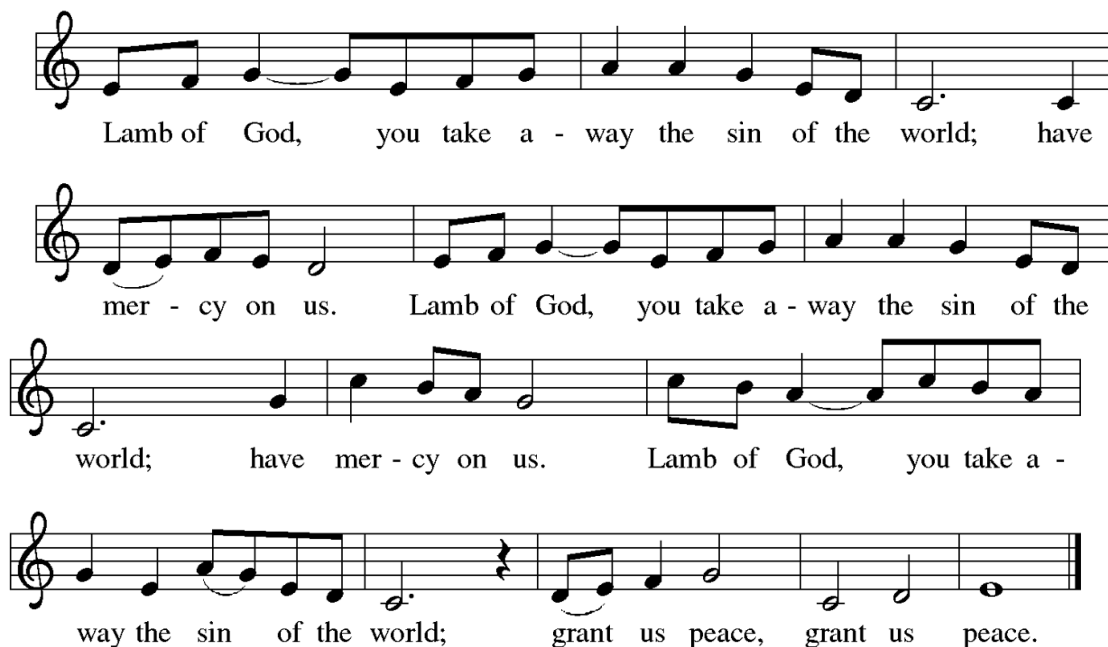
*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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

“As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

“I Am the Bread of Life”

ELW 485



## **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**

“Lift High the Cross”

**ELW 660**

#### **Dismissal**

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

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

## **Making Jesus Known”**

### **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?

### **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



## 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 Dale and Debbie Grimes,  
In dedication to their wedding anniversary.  
The good things in life are always better together ❤️**

### Church Office Hours

**8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

(Monday through Friday)

**Please note.....**

Hours may vary with vacations.

Please call ahead ☺



<b>Summer Story Time</b>
Tuesday, July 1, 10:00 a.m.
<b>LWR Quilt Ministry</b>
Tuesday, July 1, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Thursday Bible Study</b>
Thursday, July 3, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Spiritual Practices Series</b>
No Class- Next Class July 10
<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Friday, July 4</b>

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