



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Andante” by John Stanley

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.**

Hymn Sing

“One Hymn Chosen by the Congregation”

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.**

Hymn Sing

“Two-Three Hymns Chosen by the Congregation”

Prayer of the Day

P Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

The Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these, the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do

not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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



The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

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

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’

¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

Sermon

"Passing the Peach"

Pastor Stephen Bond



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

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 In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

AM Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image and establish equity and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear, especially for; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Luke Holtz, Lisa Boltz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Martina Benton, Amy Meagher, Dorothy Petrell, Kian Schumaker, Lynne Lark, Becky Giesler, John Vartanian, Paul Ladd, Larry, Andy, Clara, Rochelle, Mary Beth, Barb and Jerry Wieman, Tom Druschel, Hollie Roark, Matt Jurrus....** and all that we remember in silence. Give strength to those who give care and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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.

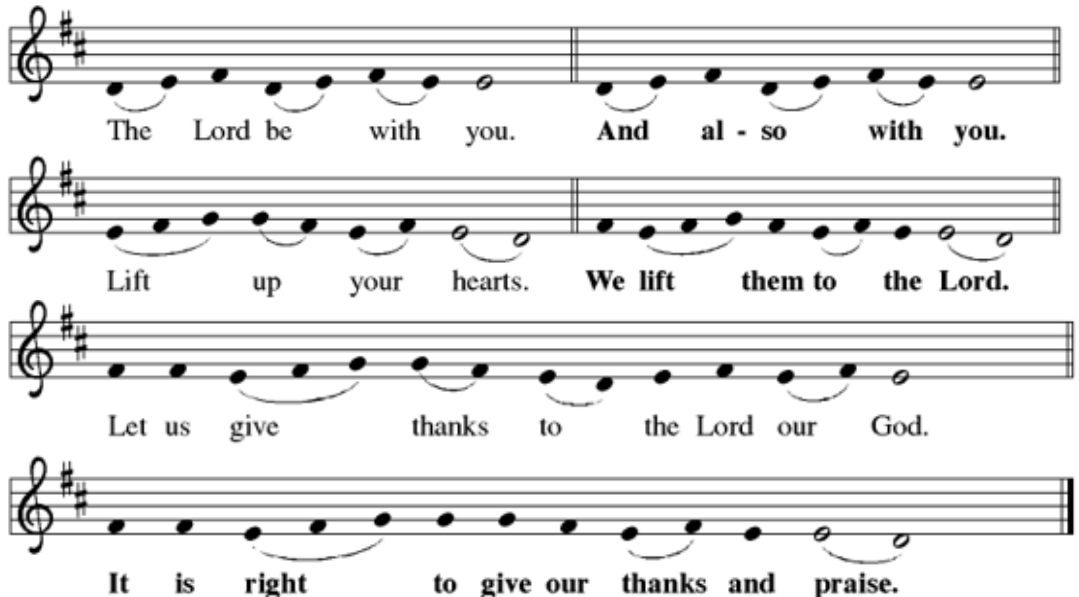
The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.

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 musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

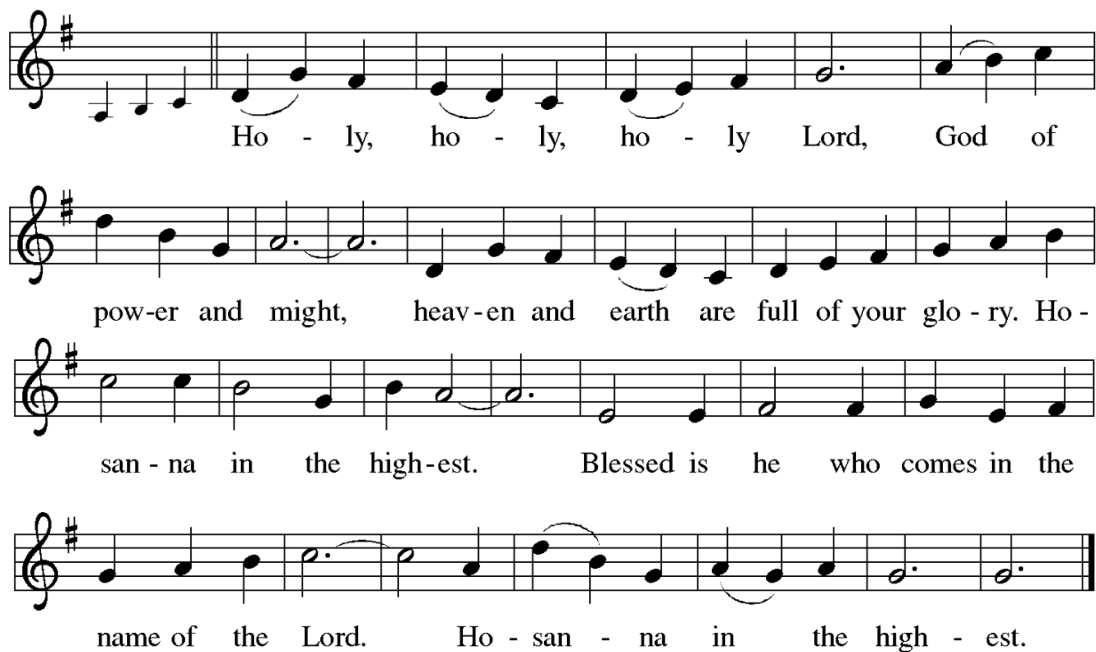
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.....**



The Words of Institution

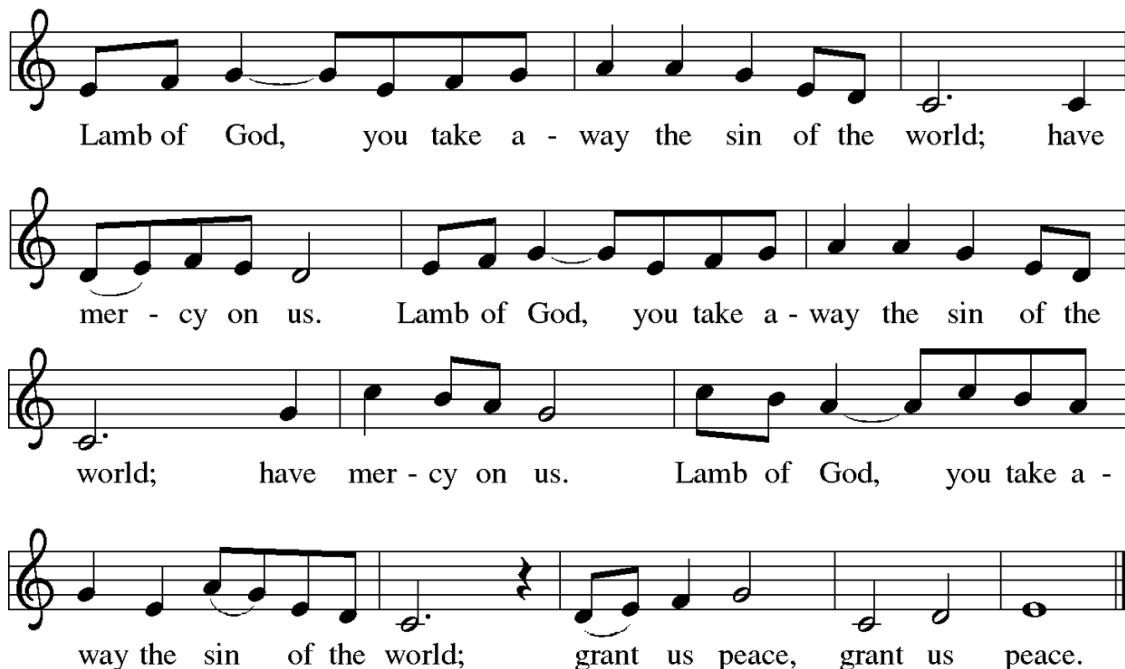
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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

“Two Hymns *Chosen by the Congregation*”

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.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

P Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick or homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

Hymn Sing

“One Hymn Chosen by the Congregation”

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!



Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in August: Rare Birds--Introducing Lesser-Known Prophets You probably recognize the sound of a robin in your yard or the sight of a bright red cardinal at your feeder. Those birds are plentiful and familiar to many people in this part of the country. But every so often, you'll spot something you've never seen before or hear a peculiar bird song and wonder what it came from--and who knows, maybe you've gotten to see a

yellow warbler or an indigo bunting for the first time, or maybe a heron or an eagle! To be honest, there are times in our study of the Bible where it might feel like

we are spotting rare birds like that, too. We probably have a decent familiarity with the Gospels, or with some of our favorite passages in Paul's letters or the psalms, and maybe a few favorite Old Testament stories from childhood Sunday School memories. But then there are those books whose names sound strange and unfamiliar, with names like "Obadiah" or "Habakkuk" that we don't remember reading before. Who are these people, and what did they have to say? What did their voice contribute among the more familiar sounds of robins and wrens like Isaiah or Moses? That's where we're headed in our next Thursday afternoon Bible study series, starting August 7th at 1:00 p.m. Our series on Amos that has run for most of the summer so far has now concluded, and we'll be taking one week off before our Thursday Afternoon Bible study will pick up again on a new series, just for the month of August. This short four-part series is a study of those "Rare Birds" from among the minor prophets--and we'll get a chance to survey several of them, find out what their message and ministry looked like in their own time, and then explore what they have to say to us in our own day, too. Everybody is welcome, and you don't need to bring anything but a Bible--meet us in the Bible Study/Council room starting on August 7 at 1:00 p.m.!

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 28th**. 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. 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". 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.

SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH!

Let's lace up those walking shoes to help love, unity, and inclusion shine brightly in our community. Community of Christ has been asked to join a multi-faith initiative and walk in support in the Toledo Pride parade on Saturday, August 16th, at noon.

Last year, more than 300 people from over 30 different local faith communities joined together, highlighting a message that we all Love Out Loud and we are Better Together. Think of this as a chance to say by our presence and our walking feet, “God’s love is for you!” to people who might just be aching to hear that they are beloved. Even if that’s all our presence can do for someone else, that might just be the starting point for the Spirit to move in amazing and gracious ways. Please consider joining the Outreach Committee and walking to promote inclusion for all in the world that God loves. ***Additional Details:*** “The organizers of our multi-congregational group (with about 30 participating congregations and faith groups from the greater Toledo area) have asked us to gather in front of the mural on 18th and Adams around 11:30 a.m. For those who want to ride together from Community of Christ, we’ll depart at 10:45 a.m. from the church to get a space to park and get to the meeting point. For those who ordered shirts earlier in July, when those are in, we’ll have them picked up and notify you when you get yours at the church. We’ll also share these details via email with everyone who has signed up, whether at the kiosk or online, and if you have any questions, needs, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Steve or Kari Swagler.”



One of our ongoing mission partners in the Toledo area is Salem Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran congregation in Toledo and an ongoing presence for good in the Old North End neighborhood of Vistula. You may well have read about or participated in their weekly Tuesday night meals for the community, helped with Trunk or Treat in their parking lot, planted trees across the street, or participated in the Angel Tree gift giveaway for kids in the

North End. You might have also seen or heard about their new monthly initiative called “Breakfast Church,” where they offer a free breakfast as part of Sunday worship once a month. In other words, our friends at Salem are doing good work all the time to feed neighbors, invite them to worship in ways that nurture both body and spirit, and to care for their community. And we are blessed to get to connect with that good work where Christ is present at many points throughout the year. So, here’s one more way you can help support our mission partners at Salem in the various ways they work to feed neighbors around them and reflect God’s goodness in their neighborhood. We have these new stickers that will be available starting August 3, and we’d invite you to take one for a suggested donation of \$5.00 each. We’ll take all the proceeds and send them along to the food ministries at Salem. These stickers feature an original art design and the message, “Abundance is meant to be shared,” which comes from the Gospel reading we’ll hear in worship on Sunday, August 3, from Luke’s Gospel (Luke 12:13-21). You can pick one up from the table in the Gathering Space, make a donation in the box on the table beside the stickers, and know that you are directly helping to feed neighbors, and to share the good things God has placed in our lives,

which is exactly what those good things are meant for. We hope you'll boldly put one of these stickers on something you wear or carry around with you as a way to start a conversation, prompt a moment to share your faith with someone, or to remind you both of God's generosity and our call to share the abundance God puts in our lives.

Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Monday through Friday)

Please note.....

Hours may vary with vacations.

Please call ahead ☺



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

Visitation Ministry
Monday, August 4 at 10:30 a.m.
Care Givers Meeting
Monday, August 4 at 6:30 p.m.
LWR Quilters
Tuesday, August 5, 10:00 a.m.
Summer Story Time
Tuesday, August 5, 10:00 a.m.
Outreach
Tuesday, August 5, 7:00 p.m.
Social Action
Wednesday, August 6, 10:00 a.m.
Worship & Music
Thursday, August 7, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, August 7, 1:00 p.m.
Spiritual Practices Series
Thursday, August 7, 6:30 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Ron & Elaine Hetherwick.
To the Glory of God in honor of Elaine's 81st Birthday! ❤️**