



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Prelude” by Chopin

Eric Dickey

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

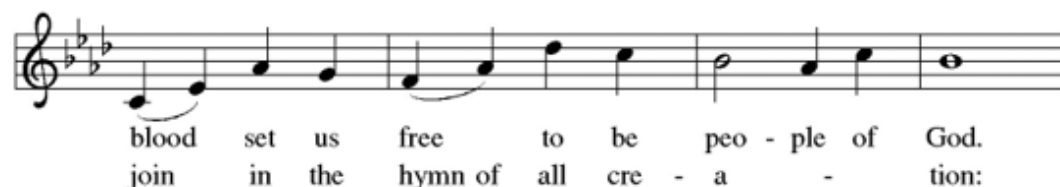
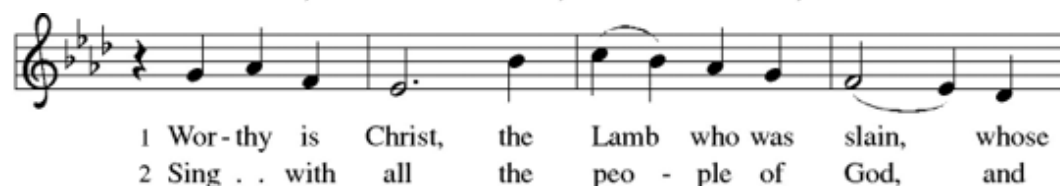
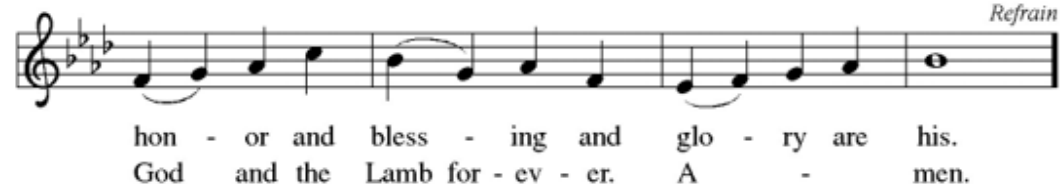
“Thine the Amen”

ELW 826

High Voices VS. 3 Low Voices VS. 4

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 O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

Anthem

“You Are Here” by Pastor Stephen Bond

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

⁹ The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰ when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?” ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

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

The Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.

⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you

and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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



The Holy Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

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

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.

³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you

think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."
P The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

"The Right Question"

Pastor Stephen Bond

Hymn

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

ELW 708

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 Saving God, awaken your church to your truth as it follows your path of love. Encourage pastors, deacons, teachers, and seminarians, and lead them as they seek to learn your ways. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Prosper the harvests of fruit-bearing bushes, trees, and plants. Uphold farmers and farm workers as they labor through summer days, and bring relief to lands that are parched with heat. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Instill in leaders of the world a strong love for their neighbors. Compel them to govern with equity and to give aid and protection to people who are vulnerable, especially strangers, migrants, and asylum seekers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Draw near to people in need of help, comfort, and healing; **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, Brenda, Kian Schumaker, Lynne Lark, Danny Romick,**

Graham Schwartz, Nancy Meyer, Stephen Bond, Gene Heising, Tom Druschel, Ruby Ruthford, Riley Raitz and all that we remember in silence. Provide protection and aid to children who are unsafe and undernourished while on summer break. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Go with all who travel and protect them from harm. Put in their paths people who offer aid. We pray especially for the safety of first responders. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM We give you thanks for all who have gone before us and have made your love known. Help us to follow their witness as we await our share in the inheritance of the saints. 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



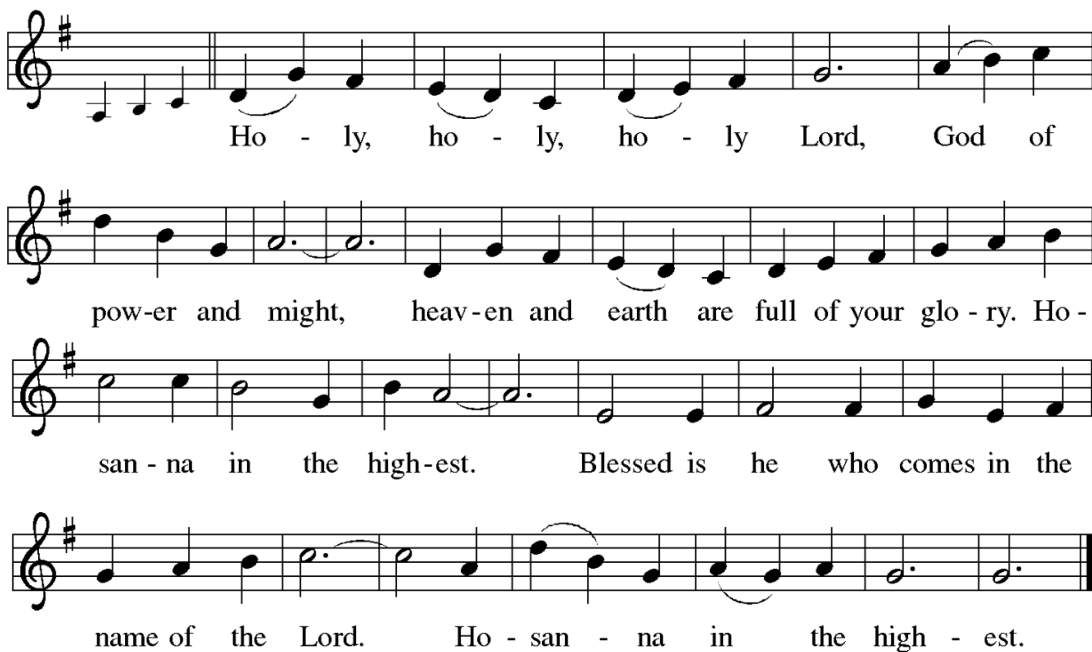
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

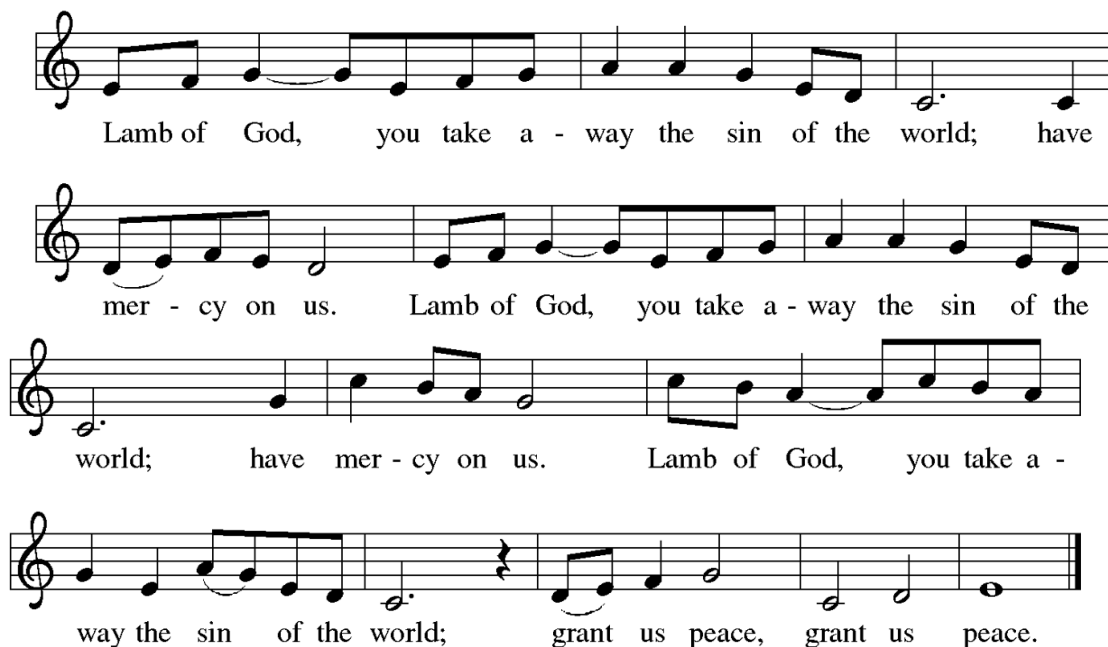
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”
“Change My Heart, O God”

ELW 800
ELW 801

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

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

ELW 650

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 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. 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.

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?

Looking for a Flexible Bible Study Option? If you've wanted to join a Bible study but your schedule hasn't allowed, it—or you missed one of our past studies—we have a great solution! The church library now offers **over 21 Bible studies on DVD** for you to borrow and complete at your own pace. To check one out, simply use the sign-out card attached to the DVD, place it in the pocket on the side of the bookcase, and return the DVD and card when you're finished. **Please note:** You'll need to order your study book for each series. Topics include *Exodus*, *Genesis*, *Hebrews*, *James*, and many more! Questions? Contact Becky King at **419-349-7319**.

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

“Into Your Hands”—An Encore Workshop on Christian Funerals and End-of-Life Questions In early May, Visitation Ministry hosted a Saturday morning workshop co-led by Vicar Natalie and Pastor Steve on Christian funerals and questions that often arise in end-of-life situations. We had a very positive response to that event, and a number of people who were not able to attend because of timing asked if it could be shared again. So, this summer, we invite you to join us for an encore presentation of *Into Your Hands*, on the evening of Tuesday, July 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., covering the same content as the workshop we offered back in May. Sign up at the kiosk to join us for a chance to learn, discuss, and bring your questions. We'll also be able to share details about our usual practices for funeral services and meals here at Community of Christ, and we'll offer a chance for any who wants to think through their own wishes for service details to do so. Maybe this is a subject you've been putting off thinking about, or maybe you've just needed a reason to finally sit down with loved ones and talk through your wishes. But we hope that this workshop can be helpful for you, and we'd invite you to join us to find out more. Then, coming up in the fall, look for a new workshop that will look at another set of issues related to death and dying, focusing on documents like living wills, healthcare power of attorney, and

estate planning, in case those topics are of interest to you, too. The Visitation Ministry is grateful for the chance to get to present good information and workshops on topics that you find valuable, so please let us know if you have any ideas for future topics that you would like covered in an educational format like this—see Cheryl Fischer or Cinda Pontsler.

The Ladies' Lunch will be Friday, July 25th, at 11:30 a.m. We will be going to Inside the Five Brewing Co. at 127 Third St, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Please sign up at the kiosk so I know how many are coming. They do not make reservations, but going early, I was assured there would be plenty of room for us. I am looking forward to trying a new place. Bring a friend!! Call Becky King with any questions at 419-349-7319.

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 Saturday, July 26, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. 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 Please sign up at the kiosk. Any questions? Call Sarah Rockwell – 419-261-2843

Concert Committee Invites YOU to hear the Garms Family Acoustic Gospel Concert—July 27 at 4:00 p.m. This summer, the Concert Committee is pleased to host the Garms Family, a musical ensemble and family that “bands together to love on people with live music, honest stories, and God's Word.” On the afternoon of Sunday, July 27, at 4:00 p.m., join us in the worship space for a concert featuring piano, drums, fiddle, banjo, bass, mandolin, and more. A free-will offering will go to the performers as they make their tour, sharing music across the country, but no tickets are required. We hope you'll take time out this July for an afternoon of good music as we welcome the Garms Family this summer!



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!

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. 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. A sign-up sheet for the walk and information on how to order this year's T-shirt will be located on the kiosk and in Sign-Up Genius on the church's website.



**Altar Flowers given by The Gebhart Family in
Celebration of Autumn and Christian's
Wedding! ❤️**

Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Monday through Friday)

Please note.....

Hours may vary with vacations.

Please call ahead ☺

Summer Story Time
Tuesday, July 15, 10:00 a.m.
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, July 15, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, July 17, 1:00 p.m.
Spiritual Practices Series
Thursday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.



<p>Sunday mornings, @ 9:00 a.m., both in person and Facebook Live</p>
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You Are Here

Looking for direction
And wondering where to go
Still stumbling
We've come here to you.
Waiting for a sign post
We've pinned our hopes on this
Your promise
Grace will make us new.

*You are here
In the presence of the Spirit
All around, pouring down for you.
Loud and clear
Come in close so you can hear it
You are claimed
Called by name, it's true.*

Afraid of crossing boundaries
And used to staying safe
Still hiding
Inside our well-worn rules.
But mercy is courageous
And takes the chance to act
So orient
Our anxious hearts on you.

*You are here
Sent to serve our neighbors
Out the door
This is your great command.
Freed from fear
So love animates our labors
To walk beside
Open-eyed, willing hand.*

So welcome to the movement
Tired of standing still
No ignoring,
And no more walking by.
Washed with love and water
And fed with bread and grace
We are learning
To see through Jesus' eyes.

*You are here
Your power makes us able
To take the time, to cross old lines,
to be brave.
Bring us here,
Gathered at your table
So from these walls
We'll share with all what you gave.*

*With more than talk
We'll walk the walk
So the world can trace
The path of grace
It's our frontier
I see it clear:
You are here.*