



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Stephen C. Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Scenes From Childhood” by Schumann

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.**

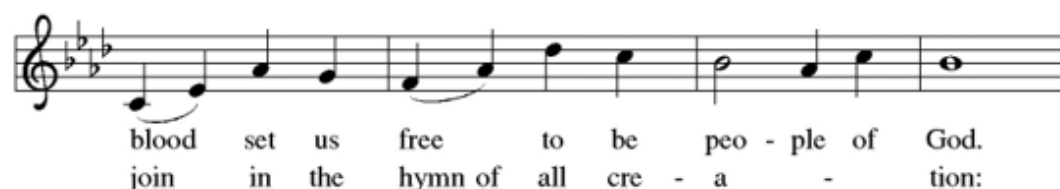
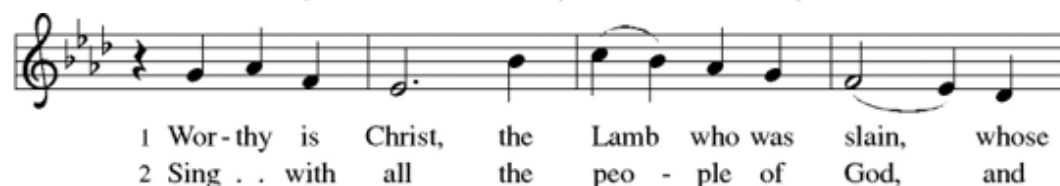
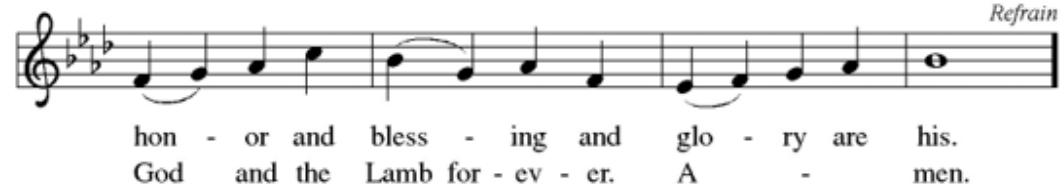
**Gathering Hymn**

“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”

**ELW 519**

**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** Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **Childrens Sermon**

### **THE READINGS**

#### **The First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”

<sup>10a</sup> Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

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

#### **The Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28**

<sup>15</sup> [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;<sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—<sup>23</sup> provided that you continue securely

established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup> I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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



## **The Holy Gospel: Luke 10:38-42**

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

<sup>38</sup> Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup> there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

**Sermon**

"When Jesus Comes to Dinner"

*Vicar Natalie Downs*

**Hymn**

"Give Me Jesus"

**ELW 770**

## 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** Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Speak your word of comfort to the victims of the flooding in Texas and the first responders, and any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair; **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, Bev Howard, Brenda, Kian Schumaker, Lynne Lark, Danny Romick, Graham Schwartz, Nancy Meyer, Sally Goetz, Becky Giesler, John Vartanian, Paul Ladd, Larry, Andy, Clara, Rochelle, Mary Beth....** and all that we remember in silence. Bring honor to those who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, especially Cindy Gusky and Lois Wise, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. 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.*

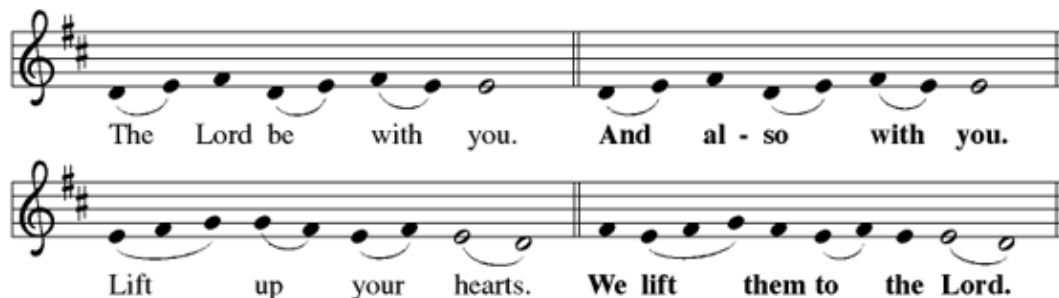
*The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.*

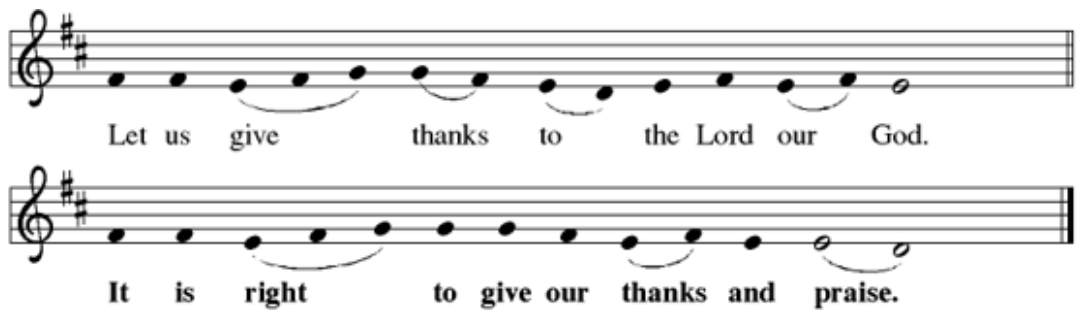
**Our Tithes and Offerings** *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

### **Offering Prayer**

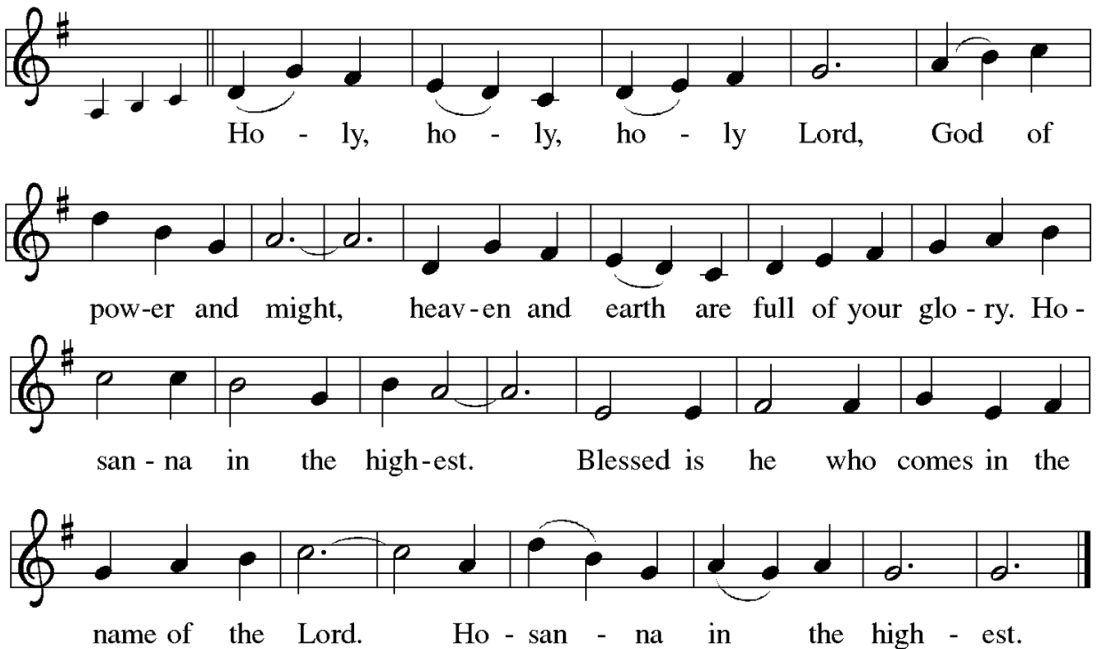
**AM** Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**





### \*The 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

“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”  
“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

ELW 754

ELW 818

## 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.**

## Blessing of the Quilts



## 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**

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

**ELW 820**

#### **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 in the council room 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 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?

**"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*, this **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.

### **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

**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 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 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!

### **SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>!**

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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Newsletter Deadline Reminder:** Please remember that all articles, photos, announcements, and other submissions for the upcoming August newsletter are due **by Wednesday, July 23**. Please email them to Michelle at [secretary@commofchrist.org](mailto:secretary@commofchrist.org). Thank you for contributing!

**No Visits to Blue Creek Nursing Home:** We will not have any singing visits to the nursing home in July or August. Going forth, visits to Blue Creek Nursing Home will follow the academic year, September through May. We look forward to seeing you in September!

### **Vicar Natalie Preaching Today and Next Sunday**

We are grateful to have Vicar Natalie preaching this Sunday and again next week. As part of her pastoral formation, your feedback is incredibly valuable. Please take a moment to fill out a feedback form that was passed out with the bulletins and place it in the basket on the table in the Gathering Space. Thank you for supporting and encouraging her in this important step of her journey.



**WELCOME, Bryce Hinegardner, our new Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director!!** Bryce has formally stated here at Community of Christ and Providence Lutheran Church on Monday, July 14. He will share his ministry between both churches, having twenty hours a week at each location and a regularly rotating presence on Sunday mornings in worship between Community of Christ and Providence. A meet and greet with Bryce will be scheduled for a Sunday morning after worship this August. In the meantime, if you see him, please introduce yourself and give him a BIG welcome!!

### **Bryce Hinegardner**

*Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*

Bryce is excited to be part of the Community of Christ family and bring his love for working with kids and youth into this role. Before stepping into ministry, he spent a few years in software sales, worked as an archery technician, and coached youth archery. He's also been involved with Camp Union as a counselor. Bryce and his wife, Codi, who teaches sixth grade English and Social Studies and also serves as a Camp Union director, live in Liberty Center with their son, James (Jamie), who's just over a year old and loves story time and throwing balls around the house.



**Altar Flowers given by Carol Wiemken to the  
Glory of God!**

**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 22, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Into Your Hands Workshop</b>
Tuesday, July 22, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday Bible Study</b>
Thursday, July 24, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Spiritual Practices Series</b>
Thursday, July 24, 6:30 p.m.



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



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message

or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!