



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 24, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” by Paul Manz

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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 858

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C And also with you.**

Refrain

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



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



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



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



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



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

Refrain

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

P O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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

The Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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



The Holy Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

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

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath,

kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

Sermon "Trouble-making, Chain-breaking Jesus" *Pastor Stephen Bond*

Hymn "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand" **ELW 441**

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 Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

AM You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils, staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness, especially for; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Luke Holtz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Martina Benton, Amy Meagher, Dorothy Petrell, Kian Schumaker, Laura Reimer, Greg Urbanski, Miles McGinnis, Sam, Sally, John Jaskolski, Amber....** and all that we remember in silence. Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM With all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name, especially Amelia Hartbarger. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Confident in God’s presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them, through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are written below each staff, aligned with the notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

*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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major. The melody is more complex than the first section, featuring dotted notes and slurs. The lyrics are written below each staff, aligned with the notes. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

The Words of Institution

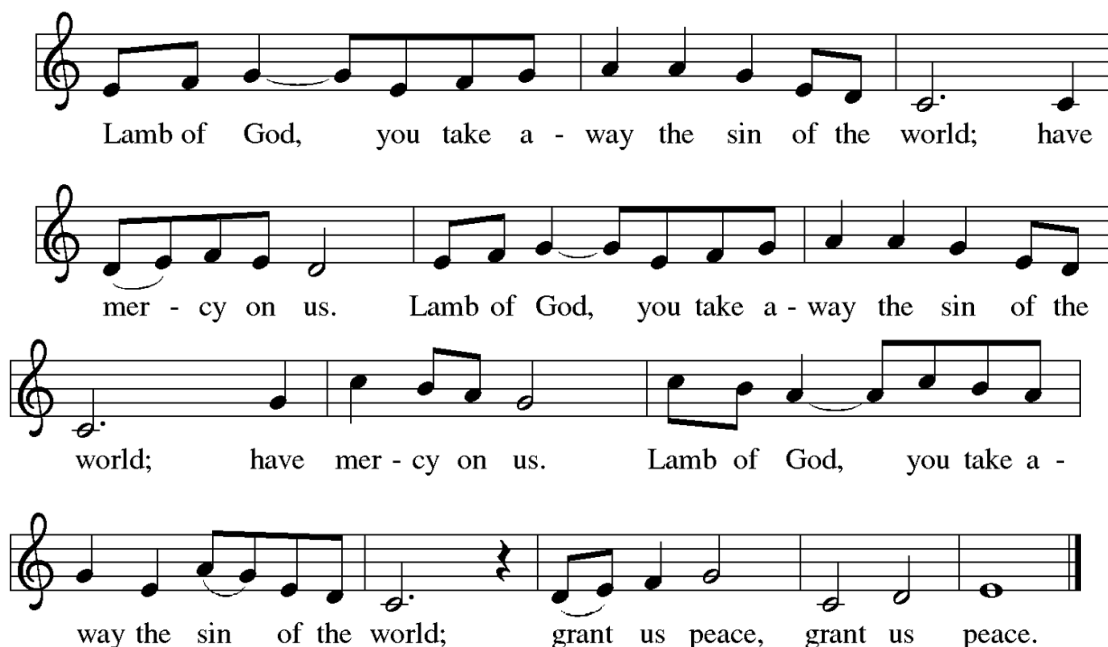
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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

“Morning Has Broken”
“Come to the Table”
(Sung Twice)

ELW 556
ELW 481

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”

This is the Day the Lord has made! We will rejoice in it! We are glad that you have joined us for worship this weekend! May the Lord bless His Word and Sacrament and draw us near to Him! Welcome to Community of Christ!

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? This is what we are learning about in our Thursday afternoon Bible study series, at 1:00 p.m. This short four-part series is a study of those "Rare Birds" from among the minor prophets--and we'll 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 at 1:00 p.m.!

Spiritual Practices

This Thursday, August 28, will conclude our Spiritual Practices summer series with Pastor Meg Boger from Zion Lutheran in Waterville. Join us at 6:30 p.m. as she leads us in Hymn Singing! This is an *intergenerational group*, meaning all ages are encouraged and welcome to attend! Sign-ups for this event are available at the kiosk or in SignUp Genius at www.commofchrist.org by clicking on the “Worship & Events Signups” button.

We also invite you to attend our **Spiritual Practices End-of-Session Picnic!** We'd love to see you there as we wrap up the season with great food and fellowship. Please sign up at the kiosk or on Sign Up Genius so we can plan accordingly. A free will offering will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal. Any extra funds will go toward supporting our concert ministry. We can't wait to celebrate with you, thank you!



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 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, 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.

Join us TODAY! August 24, after Worship: LEGO Faith Builds and Youth Facilitator Meet and Greet: We invite you for coffee hour after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a chance to meet and talk with Bryce over some light refreshments. This is also a great opportunity for kids of all ages to do some LEGO Faith Build during that time. We'll take some time to build and make things out of LEGO bricks and to talk about how they might connect to our faith and relationship with God. During our Spiritual Practice session this past Thursday, we learned LEGO building with Pastor Chris Hanley (from Glenwood Lutheran in Toledo), so we wanted to give an extra opportunity to build, play, and reflect on this more, just in case you could not attend. Please join us after worship service with Bryce and guided LEGO Building! (Special note: there will not be an Adult Sunday School Forum, so you can come to the Meet and Greet!)

Anthony Wayne Area 2nd Annual Youth Back-to-School Back Yard Party—TONIGHT, August 24, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. As we get ready for the new school year, Community of Christ has teamed up with several other area congregations for an AWESOME back-to-school event for youth in grades 7-12. We will have outdoor games, water activities, refreshments provided by local food trucks, music, cornhole, and prizes! Food and drink will be provided for all who attend! We'll have several water games to keep cool in the weather, so bring a towel and apparel you can splash around in. You can sign up at the kiosk or through Sign-up Genius on the church website! This will be a great time, we hope you'll join the fun and hang out with us, and bring a friend!

Tuesday Ladies Bible study: September is quickly approaching, so that means we will be starting sooner than we think! The first day of class will start on **Tuesday, September 9th @ 8:30 am.** This fall, we will be reading "The Mothers & Daughters of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. Please purchase the book and the workbook that goes with it as soon as possible. I am asking you to read the first chapter, "Jochebed and Miriam," and complete the first chapter in the workbook so that when we meet on the first day, we can dig into the study. The workbook is not difficult and will enhance our discussions. Also, Vicar Natalie will be joining us for some of the lessons and will lead the discussion. This is a change from what we have done in the past, but I think it will be a great change of pace for us. Invite a friend & be sure to

sign up at the kiosk so I can know how many will be attending. Questions or concerns? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. See you in September!

Bridges of Hope Clothing Drive: As the seasons change, Bridges of Hope needs warmer clothing! If you have any gently used or new adult-sized hoodies or sweatshirts, your donations would be greatly appreciated. Please place items in the collection box located in the hallway. Thank you!!

*****Band Rehearsal TODAY for Blue Jean Sunday – Sunday, August 24, after worship service*****



Altar Flowers given by Jim & Cheryl Fischer as they celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary! ❤️

Choir Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 10th

Looking for new ways to serve the church and also be filled up by the church? Singing in the choir is the perfect balance between giving and receiving. You give the gift of your participation; you receive connection with the gospel message as you join your voice with others to Make Jesus Known.

Choir rehearsals will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 10th with our first Sunday morning anthem being Sunday, September 28th. Lisa and Eric are excited to reconnect with returning members, and **we welcome anyone who is interested in giving the choir a try!**

We will be operating on sessions again through Christmas. You are free to participate in as many or as few sessions as your schedule allows. The sessions are listed below. Signing up through Sign-Up Genius or at the gathering space kiosk helps us in our planning.

Session 1: Wednesday, September 10 - Sunday, September 28

Session 2: Wednesday, October 1 - Sunday, October 26

Session 3: Wednesday, October 29 - Sunday, November 23

Session 4: Wednesday, December 3 - Sunday, December 21, (also singing Dec 7 and Dec 24)



School Kits

It's that time of year again! We are collecting school supplies for **"Project Promise - Build Kits of Care"** through Lutheran World Relief. These kits allow students of all ages in third-world countries to attend school. **Donations will be collected through September.**

With Back-To-School Sales getting started now is a great time to pick up the items needed to fill our backpacks.

Our goal is to fill 50-60 backpacks again this year. Each backpack requires the following items: (New Items Only Please)

(4) 70-sheet notebooks - (Wide or College Ruled) No loose-leaf paper.

(1) 30-centimeter ruler or one with both centimeters and inches on it.

(1) pencil sharpener

(1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors)

~~(5) Unsharpened pencils~~ (we have plenty, thank you!)

(5) black or blue ballpoint pens (No gel ink, please)

(1) box of 16 or 24-count box of crayons

(1) Eraser (approx. 2.5" in size)

Please do not donate anything with the American Flag, patriotic, or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(Monday through Friday)

Please note.....

Hours may vary with vacations.

Please call ahead ☺

Meet & Greet with Bryce & Lego Faith Builds
Today, August 24, 10:15 a.m.
AW Area 2nd Annual Youth Back- to-School Back Yard Party
Today, August 24, 6:00 p.m.
Lay Internship
Monday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, August 28, 1:00 p.m.
Spiritual Practices Series
Thursday, August 28, 6:30 p.m.



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