



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

Pam Stover

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

“O God beyond All Praising”

ELW 880

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.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

Prayer of the Day

P O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

The Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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



The Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

Sermon

"The Mad Tea Party of God"

Pastor Stephen Bond

Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

ELW 522

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 For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence, 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, Matt Jurrus, Sam, Sally, John Jaskolski, Tom Druschel, Hollie Roark....** and all that we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. 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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens under "al - so" and "Lift up" to indicate phrasing.

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.

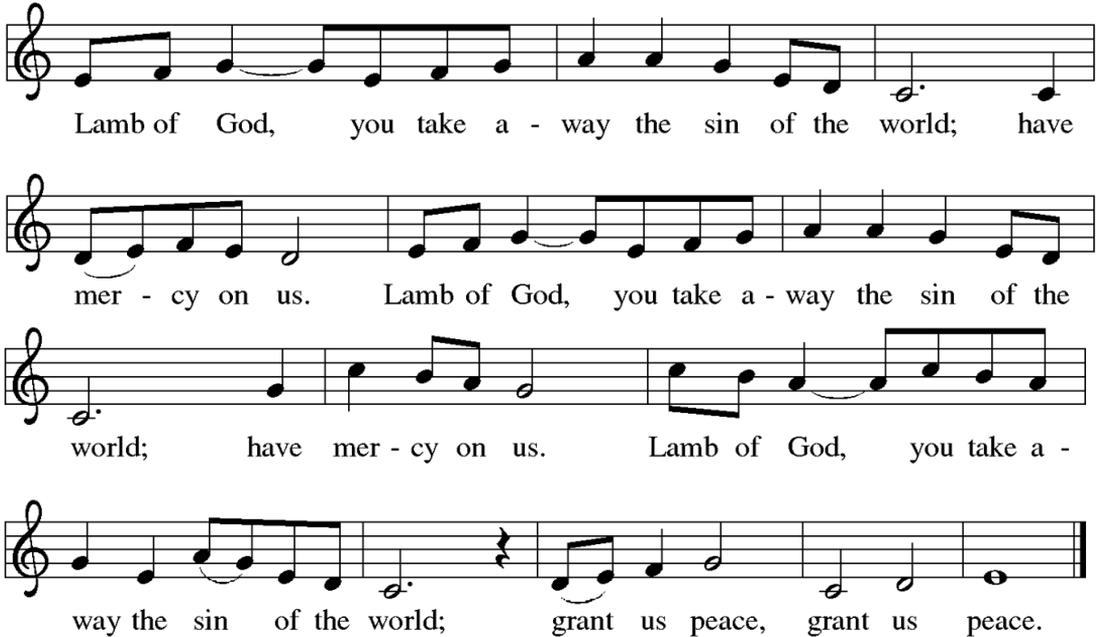
The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **C** **O**ur 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

“Gather Us In”

ELW 532

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

ELW 534

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

"O Christ the Same"



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,



un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,



who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;



O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Dismissal

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

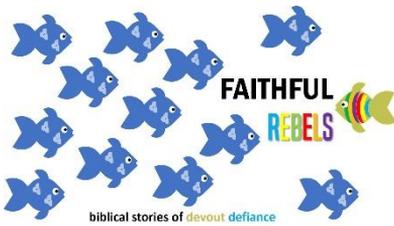
AM And next week, **bring a friend!**

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!

Today in Adult Forum! Ask the Vicar ("Questions from a Hat")

Join us after worship in the Bible study/council room for a one-day session called "Questions from a Hat," in which we'll have the chance to bring questions about whatever topics of faith, Bible, God, or life to be drawn out at random for Vicar Natalie to respond to! Have you always wondered something about our faith? Had a God-question you have never gotten a good answer for? Curious about what Vicar Natalie thinks on a subject, a Bible verse, or some part of the Christian faith? Join around the table, add your question, and we'll see where the conversation takes us!



New Bible Study Series, Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in September: “Faithful Rebels—Case Studies in Devout Defiance”

This September, our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study begins a new series we’re calling “Faithful Rebels” that will look at stories of holy troublemakers who went against the flow, spoke up against the powers of the

day, or witnesses in countercultural ways in their own times and places. From the Hebrew midwives in Pharaoh’s Egypt who saved the babies that the king ordered to be killed to prophets like Elijah challenging their own leaders, to the men in the fiery furnace refusing to bow down to a golden statue of an arrogant king, the Bible is full of stories in which God worked through people who bravely stood up against the expectations (or official decrees!) of the day as part of their way of living out their faith, caring for those in danger, or pointing to the presence of God in the world. If you have been looking for a good jumping-on point to join a Bible study, this is a great chance to join us! We’ll gather around the table in the Bible study/council room on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. starting on Sept. 11, and we’ll be sharing video summaries each week on the church Facebook page and on YouTube in case you can’t be with us in person. Join us this fall to explore stories of devout defiance from faithful rebels!



Support Salem Lutheran's Meal Ministry and Tree Planting This Fall!

As part of our partnership with Salem Lutheran in the Vistula neighborhood of Toledo, we have two projects this fall for which we invite your support! Back in August, we created these stickers with the theme (drawn from Jesus in the Gospels) that says, "Abundance is meant to be shared", and we'd invite any who want a sticker to give a 5.00 donation for one, and all those proceeds will go to help the weekly meal ministry at Salem, which gives away between 250-300 meals every Tuesday at a time when many of their other sources of funding have been slashed. You can also help us with a long-term project of neighborhood improvement at Salem by helping us raise money for planting additional fruit trees in the growing arboretum Pastor Mike is creating adjacent to the church. Social Action Committee has taken the same "Abundance is meant to be shared" logo and made it into a canvas tote bag--great for wrapping gifts instead of using paper, grocery bags, or carrying your personal items through the day. For a \$5.00 donation for each bag, you can also help us partner with Salem for getting these additional trees which we'll help to plant later this fall. Our goal is to raise \$1,000.00 for trees if possible, and we'd love your help to make it happen--because, as Jesus says, "To whom much is given, much is required," or in other words, *abundance is meant to be shared!*

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!!

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 a 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 can 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)

Bell Choir begins on Thursday, September 11th

Thank You! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously provided salads and desserts for recent funeral luncheons. Your gifts of time, care, and food have been a true blessing to the families we serve during their time of loss. If you brought a dish, your containers are ready for pick-up on the cart located in the kitchen.



**Altar Flowers given by Dave Myerholtz in honor of our
62nd Anniversary ❤️ Also given by Rory and Perry
Hartbarger in loving memory of Amelia “Millie”
Hartbarger ❤️**



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!

**** Please note that the supply table is located in the hallway near the library.****



Closed for Labor Day
Monday, September 1
LWR Quilt ministry
Tuesday, September 2, 10:00 a.m.
Social Action
Wednesday, September 3, 10:00 a.m.
Worship & Music
Thursday, September 4, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, September 3, 1:00 p.m.
Stewardship
Thursday, September 3, 6:00 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, September 3, 7:00 p.m.
Blood Drive
Friday, September 4, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Join us for our last summer 9:00 a.m. service outdoors on Blue Jean Sunday, September 7th, and don't forget your lawn chair!



Worship Schedule Update
Beginning Sunday, September 14, we will return to two worship services each week:
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m.



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!