

Community of Christ
Blue Jean Sunday
Sunday, September 7, 2025



“Making Jesus Known”



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Musical Prelude

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and
“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

The Band

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.
Amen.

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Hymn

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Refrain

Shine Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Fathers Glory
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow
Flood the nation with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word.
Lord and let there be light.

Lord the light of your love is shining.
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me. Shine on me. (*Refrain*)

As we gaze on Your Kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from Glory to Glory,
Nearer here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me. Shine on me. (*Refrain*)

Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high **(Repeat)**

Prayer of the Day

P Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

L Here ends the Reading **C Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I,

Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly, he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Hallelujah Verse

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

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

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the

terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

Sermon

Vicar Natalie Downs

Hymn

“Shout to the Lord”

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Affirmation of Baptism--Reception of New Members

P Jim, Cammie, Judy, and Diane, we rejoice to receive you, members already of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

Let us pray:

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R *I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R *I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R *I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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**

P You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for peace and justice in all the earth? If so, I ask you to respond,

"I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

R *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ, to receive these new members of our church family as your own sisters and brother and as God's beloved, to rejoice with them in their joy, and to weep with them in their sorrows as part of the one body of Christ, and to encourage these new members in living out the covenant God has made with them in baptism?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in these brothers and sisters the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen**

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

AM We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely; **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, Paul Ladd, Hollie Roark, Miles McGinnis....** and all others whom we remember in silence. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **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.

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.

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

Offering **Hymn**

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 583

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*

2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*

4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

Offering Prayer

AM Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

****Eucharistic Prayer Continues**

Sanctus Hymn

“You Are Holy”

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more
than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near.

Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy,
you are wholeness,
you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest!

Sing hosanna!

Sing hosanna to our God! **(Repeat)**

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

“Change My Heart, O God”

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.
You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

“Gather Us In”

I Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,

gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

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

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“We Are Marching in the Light ”

ELW 866

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

Thank you to Eric Dickey and our Musical Guests: Amanda Worthington and Chad Ackerman, Vocals; Jill Kohntopp, Cello; Vicar Natalie Downs, Drums; Pastor Steve Bond and Mark Winkelman, Guitar; Stephanie Phillips, Flute

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!

New for Fall Adult Forum: Who Is My Neighbor?

Our Adult Forum starts the fall season off with a new series we are calling, “Who Is My Neighbor?”, which is inspired, as you can imagine, from the question in the gospel that prompts the story we call the Good Samaritan, where Jesus shows us that anyone God sends across our path is a neighbor, and therefore someone for us to love and be loved by. During the weeks of this series, starting September 14 during the 9:00 a.m. hour (between services) we will get the chance to hear from voices who can speak to the experience of neighbors near and far whose stories and needs might be quite similar to our own, or very different. We’ll get to hear from folks like Pastor Mike Hanck about the community being built by the “Norf-End Neighbors” in the Vistula neighborhood of Toledo, Synod Staff member Calla Gilson, who has spent time doing Young Adult Global Mission work in Israel and Palestine, and others who can share about different communities of neighbors around us in the world that God loves. Join us for these conversations throughout September and into October, beginning with our first Sunday back with two services, September 14!

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

Sunday School Year Kicks Off for Kids on September 14!

We are excited for the return of a new Sunday School year for kids of all ages on Sundays, and we invite you to join us on Sundays in the 9:00 a.m. hour to learn about Jesus, explore stories from the Bible, and grow in faith together with friends! With the work of our Christian Education committee and Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Facilitator, Bryce Hinegardner, to select an exciting new curriculum to use this year called "WonderInk" that will open up some of the BIG stories of the Bible, we have a team of teachers who will be a real blessing for our kids! Our primary class (our preschool, kindergarten, and primary-aged kids) will be in the long classroom (also called the Library) once again this year for class, and the upper grades will be in our youth room (the room with the couches and comfy furniture and the uniquely painted walls). And no matter what, there's a place for you! Hope you'll join us on Sundays between services starting September 14!



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 to get 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.

Confirmation Class Kicks Off for the Fall! Our new year of Confirmation Classes will kick off on Sunday, September 21, and once again, we are looking ahead to a great year in renewed partnership with neighbors at Zion Lutheran in Waterville! This year, our confirmation students will be exploring the sweep of the whole Bible and how we find our place in the wider story of God’s “unfolding promise to mend the entire universe,” as author Daniel Erlander puts it. This year will be a great experience for our young people to grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ, while learning to think theologically and live as witnesses! Our first confirmation class session will be September 21 at 12:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran in Waterville, with the rest of the year’s classes rotating location between Zion and Community of Christ. Stay tuned for more news and moments from our year in faith together!

Ladies Book Club! Our first book will be *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Vietnam has haunted many of us through the years. This book follows one woman who served as a nurse, making lifelong friendships and coming home with many of the same problems experienced by her male counterparts...PTSD, addictions, and a sense that she no longer knows who she is or is supposed to be. This is a tale of friendship, adversity, and eventually growth. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Come if you loved or hated the book, if you finished it or not, it all makes for great discussions! Bookmarks with the upcoming dates and book titles are available on the information table in the gathering space

The Ladies' lunch will be held on Friday, September 26, at 11:30 a.m. at MaMa Theresa's Italian Restaurant, located at 24099 Front Street in Grand Rapids. They offer wood-fired pizzas along with traditional Italian dishes. Please register at the kiosk and let us know if you need a ride. For questions, call Becky at 419-349-7319.

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.

JOIN US for our Youth Group Kickoff – September 14

We're launching something NEW! All students in **grades 7–12** are invited to join us for the **Youth Group Kickoff on Sunday, September 14th, at 7:00 p.m.** This is the start of an exciting year of fun, friendship, faith, and Kingdom living with youth from both **Community of Christ** and **Providence**. Come meet Bryce, make new friends, play some games, hear what we're all about, and help shape what's next. You won't want to miss it!

The Material Girls Quilt Ministry would like to thank all our volunteers either in cutting squares, organizing fabric, assembling squares, ironing lots of fabric, sewing tops, cutting batting, quilting, and binding, and your friendship. We are blessed to have a lot of quilt tops that need sewn together. If you are unable to attend our gatherings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gathering space, and you're able to sew together some tops or bind quilts back

from our quilters, we need your help! Please contact Rose Ackerman at 419-308-6808 or Joan Bierley at 419-575-3419 and leave a voice message, please. Also, if you're donating fabric to be used in our quilts, please leave it in the bin marked "donations" in the Sunday school room near our shelves. Thank you again!

****Lutheran World Relief School Kits**** Thank you to everyone who has donated school supplies to help fill the backpacks! We have received more than 70 items for every category—except for 30-centimeter rulers (or rulers with centimeters on one side and inches on the other). **At this time, we have 45 rulers and are still in need of 25 more.** If you are able to contribute, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!

Offering Our Time, Talent, and Treasure for 2026 If you're given a gift—say, for your birthday or at Christmas—it's a terrible thing to leave it wrapped in the paper. It's a shame if someone has gone to the trouble of choosing something for you that they hope you will enjoy, and you leave it in the packaging forever unopened. On the flip side, when you receive a thoughtful gift and use it, everyone's lives are enriched. Your relationship with the giver is deepened, your joy is increased, and the same is probably true of the people around you whose lives are made better because you are using your gift well. It's the same, really, in our relationships with God and with one another: when we use the gifts God has given us, our relationship with God is deepened, our joy is increased, and we make the world a better place for the people around us, too! That's why this fall, we are inviting everyone at Community of Christ to prayerfully consider how **YOU** will use your time, *talent*, and treasure—all gifts from God—in the year ahead, with our Time and Talent forms, and our invitations to Financial Commitment for the year 2026! You've already been given incredible gifts by God: the hours in each day, the abilities and interests that make us unique, and the resources we live on. Those are already in your hands, like a present waiting to be unwrapped and taken out of the box. This September, when you and your household receive the Time and Talent forms and Invitation to Financial Commitment forms for our church family, you have the opportunity to use those gifts with joy and gratitude! We're asking for you to complete those and return them to the church by October 12, so that we can get new volunteers connected with the ways they are being led to serve, and so that we can make our proposed 2026 budget grounded in realistic expectations of our planned giving.

Now, maybe you're wondering, "How do my gifts and talents fit in our church family, and where do we need volunteers here at Community of Christ?" Well, good news there, too! At our October 11-12 Festival of Talents weekend, we'll have

displays representing each of the areas of ministry in our congregation so you can learn more about what we do and how you can be a part of it. Think of it like a career fair or college expo, but for serving God and God's people—check out the displays for each ministry at Community of Christ and let that help guide where you might serve in the year ahead! It's all about opening up the gifts God has already given us!

Calling All Talented Saints (That's You!)—2025 Festival of Talents on Oct. 11 at 7:00 p.m. We need YOU! OR better yet, we want to celebrate and honor *your* talents and abilities together with our whole church family! We are thrilled to invite you to our second annual Festival of Talents on October 11-12! This special event will showcase the incredible talents and creativity of our church family, spanning all ages and interests.

Event Highlights

- **Talent Showcase:** Do you sing, play an instrument, or have a special talent to share? We welcome performances of all kinds!
- **Art and Handcrafts:** Display your artwork, quilts, afghans, handcrafts, and woodworking projects in our gallery-style exhibition.
- **Community Engagement:** Learn more about our congregational committees and ministries. Discover how you can get involved and make a difference.
- **Stories of Impact:** Share how you used the dollar bill received last October to benefit others. Whether it was through acts of kindness, donations, or community projects, your stories inspire us all.

Schedule:

- Saturday, October 11: Talent showcase and exhibition in the fellowship hall.
- Sunday, October 12: Special worship service celebrating our talents and stories of impact.

Get Involved:

Whether you want to perform, display your creations, or simply enjoy the festivities, there's something for everyone at the Festival of Talents. Come, celebrate with us as we recognize and cherish the gifts bestowed upon us!

Worship SERVICES

REMINDER!

Two Services Are Back!

***Starting NEXT Sunday,
September 14, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00
a.m. (Facebook Live @ 10:00 a.m.) ***

*what's happening
this week*

Visitation Ministry
Monday, September 8, 10:00 a.m.
Christian Education
Monday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.
Concert Committee
Tuesday, September 9, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council
Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m.
Choir Practice
Wednesday, September 10, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, September 11, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, September 11, 7:00 p.m.
Conversations and More
Friday, September 12, 12:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Kathryn Whitacre in celebration of
Karen Oden's 80th birthday!! 🎉**