



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
19th Sunday after Pentecost, October 19, 2025
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

Pam Stover

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

“Day by Day”

ELW 790

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

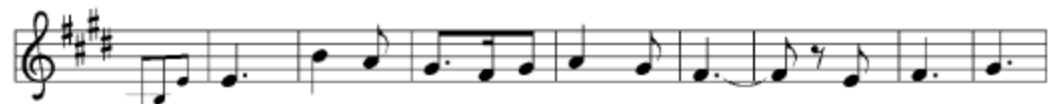
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



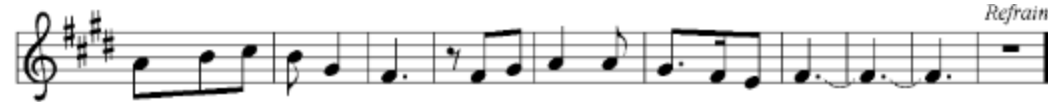
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



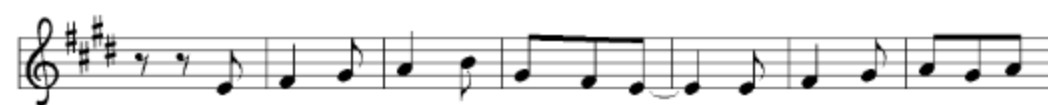
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

P O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

The Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14, 4:5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn

away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

The Holy Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

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

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ” ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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

Sermon

“The One Sure Thing”

Pastor Stephen Bond

Hymn

“There is a Longing in Our Hearts”

ACS 1078

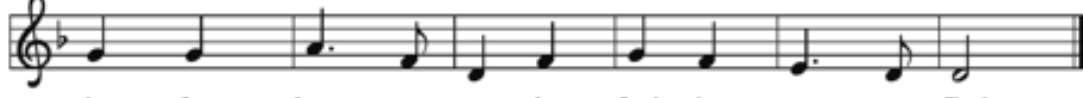
Refrain — All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:

Refrain



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

10:00 a.m.

Holy Baptism of Madilyn McCann

(Please refer to your hymnal, page 227)

The Apostles' Creed (8:00 a.m.)

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 Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

AM We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Luke Holtz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Martina Benton, Laura Reimer, Greg Urbanski, Matt Jurrus, Sally, Tom Druschel, Cindy Hartbarger, Tom Thorne, Phyllis Sturgeon, Bonnie Williams, Albert Preston, Greg Ganelli, Jessica Queen, Joshua Sanford....** and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We pray for Community of Christ. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with

the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

AM We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

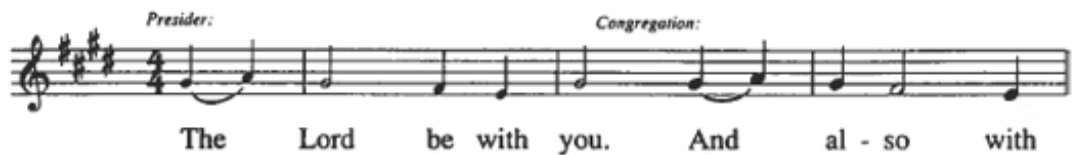
P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

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 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



President:

you. Lift up your hearts. We

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:

thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

****Eucharistic Prayer Continues**

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Words of Institution

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

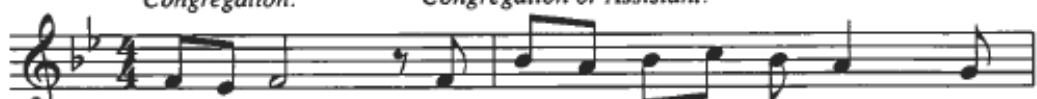
The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **C** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymns

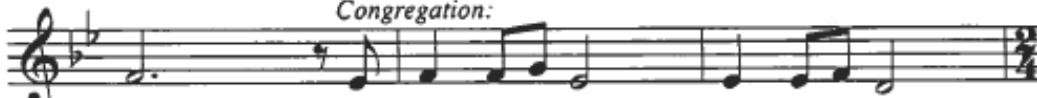
"Lamb of God"

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

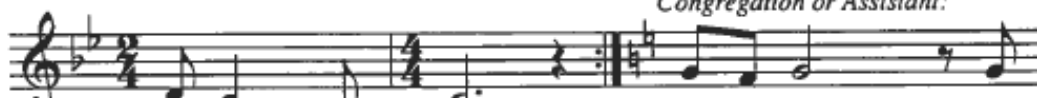
Congregation:



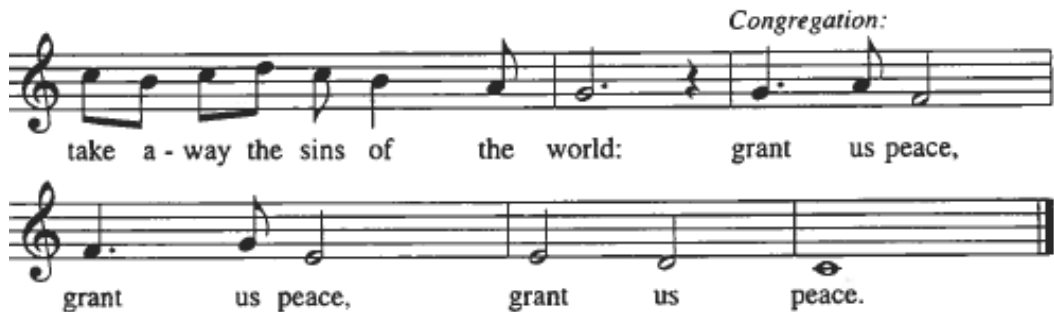
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



Hymn

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
“I Am the Bread of Life”

ELW 773

ELW 485

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.**

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

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

ELW 717

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! We welcome YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at **8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.** in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you, and as always, **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

Adult Forum: Who Is My Neighbor? Today is our last day for our “Who Is My Neighbor?”. We will hear from Destinee Chapa from Bridges of Hope, who will share more about their ministry and how our donation helps the seasonal migrant workers and their families. We hope you will join us for these conversations!

New for Fall Adult Forum:

The Church’s Song: Music that shaped the church and faith traditions

Music has been used as a spiritual practice throughout the life of the church as a way to praise God, but also to communicate who God is, what has been accomplished in the cross of Jesus Christ, and the mission of the church. Throughout the years, that message has been communicated and shared through various musical styles, techniques, and genres. Join us on Sundays during Faith Formation time from October 26th through November 30th to learn about church music throughout the centuries and listen to various musical examples.

- Session 1 (October 26th): Music of the Bible, Gregorian Chant, morality play, Lutheran Hymnody (Hildegard von Bingen, Martin Luther)
- Session 2 (November 2nd): Chorale, Cantata, and Oratorio (Buxtehude, Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn)
- Session 3 (November 9th): Mass Settings (G. Machaut, J. Haydn, W.A. Mozart, G. Fauré, L. Bernstein)
- Session 4 (November 16th): American Church Music (Bay Psalm Book, Spirituals, Shaker Music, Gospel)
- Session 5 (November 23rd): 20th Century Voices (Samuel Barber and Duke Ellington)
- Session 6 (November 30th): 21st century hymnody and contemporary music

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: “Faithful Rebels—Case Studies in Devout Defiance” Continuing into October, our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study is engaged in an original series we’re calling “Faithful Rebels,” looking 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 meet every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council Room here at the church, and we'll continue to share 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!

October Ladies Lunch – Last One of 2025! Ladies, let's make the final lunch of the year a special one! Join us at Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano (Levi's Commons, Perrysburg, OH) on Friday, October 24, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a friend and enjoy good food and great company! Sign up at the kiosk so we can reserve your spot. Questions? Call Becky King at 419-349-7319. Don't miss out, it's the perfect way to catch up before the year ends!

Boo to Do – A Night of Fun! Thursday, October 23, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Downtown Waterville Put on your favorite costume and join us for Boo to Do in Downtown Waterville! Community of Christ members, along with local businesses, will be ready with candy, stickers, and small toys to make your evening extra sweet. When you're done filling up your treat bag, stop by the end of Farnsworth Road by River Road to enjoy tasty bites from four yummy food trucks: Detroit Mini Donut, Jimbo's Tasty Chili Dogs, Susie Lynne's Lemonade, and Toledo Chuck Wagon. Bring your family, bring your friends, and don't forget your candy bucket—it's going to be a joyful night for everyone!

Casseroles! We will be preparing casseroles on **Thursday, October 23, from 9:00 to noon**. If you can come the entire time, great! If you only have an hour to give, that is welcome too! There will be cards for donations of ingredients in the pocket chart located on the side of the refrigerator in the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who has donated either the ingredients for the casseroles, money to buy the ingredients, or their time to prepare the casseroles. We appreciate your help! Sign up at the kiosk for the 23rd.



All Saints Day---November 2: We will remember in prayer our family and friends who rest with the Lord. Please include the name of your loved one on the list posted at the kiosk. The deadline for names is Sunday, October 26. Thank you.



It's that wonderful time of year again! We know it seems early, but to meet our required deadline, we're inviting you and your family to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Please fill out your envelope (available on the table in the gathering space or at the back of the church) and submit your payment today! You may pick up your flowers after our 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. **Poinsettia Order:** \$10.00 per plant **Color Options:** Pink, Red, or White **Deadline:** Sunday, November 9th (orders cannot be accepted after this date). Thank you for helping make our worship space beautiful this Christmas season!



Dear Church Family,

The Personnel Committee is inviting you to complete a brief survey to help us provide thoughtful and constructive feedback to Pastor Steve. We piloted this process with a small group last year, and both Pastor Steve and the committee found it to be very helpful and encouraging.

Your insights will help us continue to support Pastor Steve in his ministry and leadership. The survey is simple and should only take a few minutes of your time.

The survey will close on October 22nd.

You can complete it online following the link below, or you can pick up a paper copy in the gathering space and return to the church office if you prefer to fill it out manually. Thank you for your participation and for being an important part of our church community.

In Christ, The Personnel Committee

Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/MgF9RGcJfm>

Join us on Sunday, October 26th, to visit the Norma Stark Memorial Garden and Labyrinth and engage together in the spiritual practice of walking and praying the labyrinth. We will gather at church at 4:00 p.m. and travel together to Perrysburg, where the labyrinth is located. Afterwards, we will go out to dinner and engage in discussion and fellowship. Sign up at the kiosk if you are interested in joining us!

🎵 We'd Love Your Feedback! 🎵

The Concert Committee would like to hear your thoughts about our concert series. A short survey has been included on the last page of today's bulletin—please take a moment to fill it out and share your input. Your feedback will help us plan future concerts that best fit our congregation's interests and schedules. After completing the survey, simply tear it off and leave it on the table in the Gathering Space.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts! —The Concert Committee

What's Happening

Confirmation Class @ Zion
Sunday, October 19, 12:30 p.m.
Corn Maze – Leave from COC
Sunday, October 19, 2:15 p.m.
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, October 21, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club
Tuesday, October 21, 1:00 p.m.
Choir Practice
Wednesday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, October 23, 1:00 p.m.
Boo to Do - Downtown Waterville
Thursday, October 23, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.



Altar Flowers given by Doris Disher in memory of
Les' Birthday 🙏❤️

“Even (One Sure Thing)”

Even a broken clock's right twice a day
Even a stubborn mind can still give way
Even a crooked judge can come around
Even a stony heart can be worn down

Even the very last can be the first
Even relentless tides can be reversed
Even a widow's plea can still be heard
Even the covered ear awaits a word.

(Refrain)

**But You... are so much better...
Than all the lesser loves I've settled for
You're the reason we can sing;
Yes, You... are undeniable
And your promise is reliable,
If everyone else in this world is a gamble,
Lord, you are the one sure thing.**

Even the hardest ground can hold the seed
Even a stingy hand could meet a need
Even the slimmest chance is worth a try
Even a stranger's face can catch your eye.

Even a fragile faith can still take hold
Even a timid voice can still be bold.
Even a selfish fool can yet do good
Even a silent prayer is understood.

(Refrain)

Even the waiting stranger finds a place
Even the empty hands are met with grace
Even the youngest child will still belong
Even the smallest hope becomes a song.

Even the gentle rain will carve the rock
Even the long-lost sheep are in the flock
Even the Word and water poured out here
Speak of your promise, Jesus, loud and clear.

(Refrain)

Concert Survey:

1. How many concerts have you attended? _____
2. If none, why? not interested Sunday afternoon is not good other
(please circle one)
3. Would you be more likely to attend if they were held on:
Weekday evening? Friday evening? Saturday afternoon? Sunday evening?
(please circle one)
4. Suggestions _____

**Again, please tear off this page and leave it on the table in the gathering space
The Concert Committee appreciates your opinions. Thank You**