



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
23rd Sunday after Pentecost, November 16, 2025
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“The Peace” Fr. Fireworks by G.F. Händel

Eric Dickey

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, you are set free. **Amen.**

Hymn

“Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”

ELW 327

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

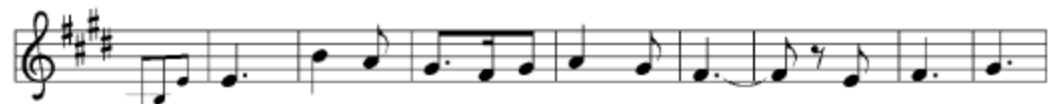
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



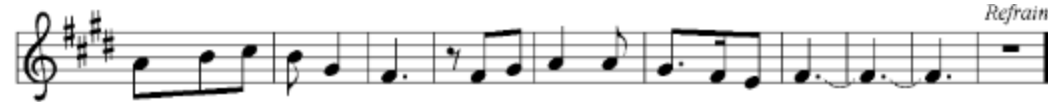
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



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



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



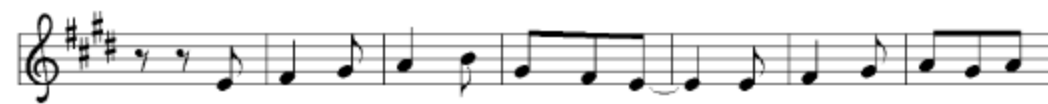
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain

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



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain

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



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

P O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

The Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now, such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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



The Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

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

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

Hymn

“O God of Every Nation”

ELW 713

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. **O**n 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 Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ’s call. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind; **Tom Jennings, Larry Battles, 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, Phyllis Sturgeon, Albert Preston, Paul**

Ladd, Greg Ganelli, Jessica Queen, Nancy Englehardt, David Reimer, Marlene Cox, Stacy Huffman, Carol Borkowski, Barb Thober, Rita Dusseau, Betty Lewis, Wello & Holly & their girls, Charles Gorniak and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building an equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love, 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 God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these, your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **Amen.**

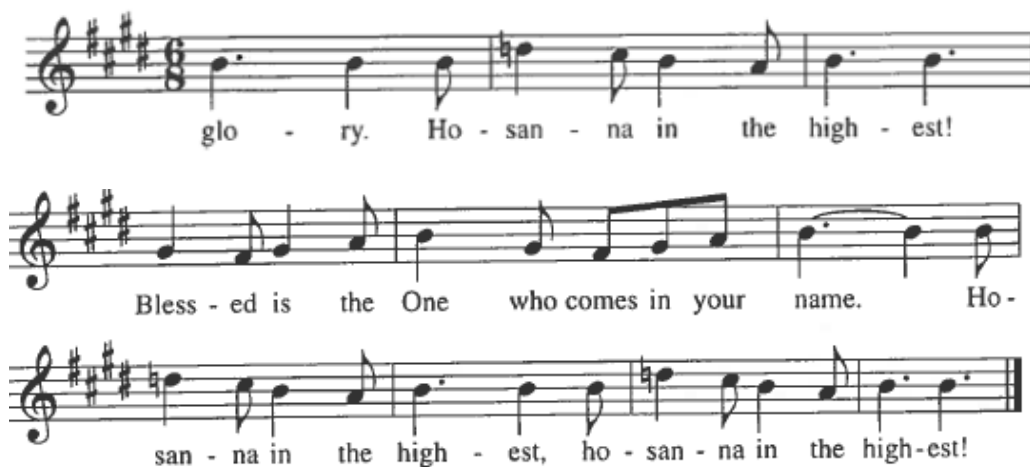
The Lord be with you. And al - so with
 you. Lift up your hearts. We
 lift them to the Lord. Let us give
 thanks to the Lord our God. It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

HOLY

Congregation:

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

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



The Words of Institution

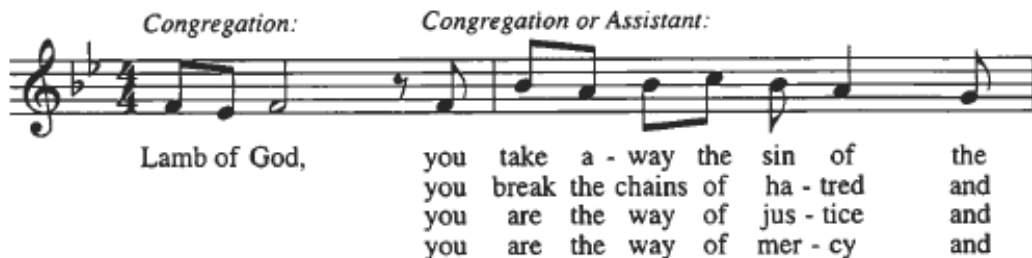
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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



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

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn

“When Peace like a River”
 “On Eagle’s Wings”

ELW 785
ELW 787

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ’s name. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ✝ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
High Voices VS 3, Low Voices VS 4

ELW 632

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Share the harvest. **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!!!!**

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 and 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 through November 30th to learn about church music throughout the centuries and listen to various musical examples.

- Session 4 (Today, 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

New Thursday Bible Study Looks at Wisdom Literature

Join us for our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study series at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council room, as Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie delve into the Wisdom Literature in the Bible. This is a set of writings in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament that offer perspectives for daily living and the meaning of life, community, work, and goodness. They can be as short as a fortune-cookie fortune (like the Proverbs), as expansive as a philosophical treatise and memoir (like Ecclesiastes), as dramatic as the saga of Job, and as romantic as the poetry of Song of Songs. So, think of this series like a charcuterie board—a sampling of the different flavors and textures of all kinds of wisdom literature in your Bible, which you might be led to study and read more in depth on your own. We will also have weekly video summaries up online on our church Facebook and YouTube pages. See you around the table!

Join us to experience the Nativity Festival, Friday, December 5, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo. This is an intergenerational event, so families with children are welcome! We will meet at the Community of Christ parking lot at 3:30 p.m. to ride together. For those who wish to meet up with us, the address is 428 N. Erie Street, located across from the courthouse. Free parking is available in the Kwik Parking lot on the left side of the building, off Erie Street.

There will be over 700 nativities from around the world on display, many of them are newly donated by the Bowles family of Swanton. There will be decorated Christmas trees, food, and a concert at 5:30 p.m.- Tapestry and guitar. Sign up at the kiosk! Any questions? Please call Julie Paulsen at 419-266-4650. The building is handicapped accessible. Free admission u Donations appreciated



****Deadline Announcements****

****Deadline for Newsletters****

Looking ahead, due to the busyness of the holiday season and upcoming vacations, the firm deadlines for the next newsletters will be:

- **December newsletter: Tuesday, November 19**
- **January 2026 newsletter: Tuesday, December 17**

****Deadline for Annual Meeting Reports****

Attention Committee Chairs and Council Liaisons: Please note that, due to the timing of annual report components and the way the November/December calendar falls, the busyness of the holiday season, all annual committee reports should be submitted to the church office by **Wednesday, November 19**. Your reports should summarize the key accomplishments of your committee over the past year and your goals and objectives for the upcoming year. To make this easier, you can copy and paste highlights from your previous month's reports. Additionally, please include your committee's description or mission, the chairperson's name, and a list of committee members. If you have any questions or need a template for your report, don't hesitate to get in touch with Michelle at secretary@commofchrist.org. Thank you!

Save the Date!!! On Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Vicar Natalie, along with Becky King, Heather Boytim, and Tina Baden from our congregation, will be hosting a Women's Retreat here at Community of Christ. Please look for more details to come, and don't forget to mark your calendars!!

“Christmas Eve Prelude” Eric is looking for our musically gifted members to help sing or play a musical instrument at one or all of our Christmas Eve Services! Please let Eric know if you are willing to sing or play an instrument at our 4:00, 7:00, or 11:00 service!

November Book Club 📖 **Killers of a Certain Age** by Deanna Raybourn
On November 18th at 1:00 p.m., we will enjoy a discussion of the best-selling book, *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn. After working for 40 years as super-secret assassins, Billie, Mary Alice, Helen, and Natalie as seen as “old-fashioned” and no longer functional by the younger assassins in their organization. It is time to retire, and the organization sends them off in style with an all-expense-paid vacation...but it seems that someone in the organization wants them eliminated. Now they are fighting for their lives and relying on all those “old-fashioned” skills to save themselves and find the person behind the planned assassination. Hope to see you there! Questions? Text me, Kathryn Whitacre, 567-395-9444



Mark Your Calendars! Our congregation will host an *annual meeting* on Sunday, December 7, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will receive the proposed budget for 2026 and elect four members for the church council. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Thank you!

****Adopt a Resident at the Lutheran Home of Mercy! ****

This holiday season, many of the LHM residents may not have family nearby. You can help spread love and joy by adopting one of these residents! We currently have 20 residents who would greatly appreciate your support through a Christmas gift. Would you consider bringing a smile to a resident's face this Christmas? Your thoughtful gift can make a significant difference in their lives.

****Important Details****

- **** Sign Out & In**** Sign out/in the resident sheet with the dates, and your name
- ****Gift Submission Deadline**** Sunday, December 7th (gifts cannot be accepted after this date as they will be taken to LHM)
- ****Please wrap each gift and place the resident's name on each, as they need to be inventoried.**

Thank you for showing love and kindness as Jesus teaches us! Let's make this holiday season special for our residents. **Thank you to those who have already signed out a resident! We have three remaining residents; if you are inclined to show them love and kindness, we would appreciate it! Thank you!**

Angel Gifts for Salem's Children

This year, as in past years, Community of Christ will have the opportunity to reach out and bless the children of our sister church, Salem Lutheran Church, in north Toledo. Pastor Mike from Salem will be providing us with a list of names of their children and their gift requests. We will incorporate these requests into an envelope and have them displayed on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place. Here are some important dates for the project:

- Sunday, November 23rd, 2025, the bulletin board in the Gathering Space will be decorated with Salem Angel requests.
- Select your "Angel" and enter your name and phone number on the pink or blue Angel slip on the board. Take the envelope behind the pink or blue slip with you. It has all the information you need regarding the gift request. **Please do not remove the pink or blue slips or relocate them on the board, as this is our inventory method.**
- Shop for your "Angel" and leave your gift under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, December 14th, 2025, is the last day to return your gifts.** Please have them under the tree by no later than 10:00 am. Ken and I will be transferring your gifts to Salem that day!

Thanks for helping to bless these children at Christmas time! Shelly & Ken Hayes

Annual Christmas Caroling! The holiday season is rapidly approaching, and so is our 3rd Annual Christmas Caroling event! This year it will be on **FRIDAY, December 12th**. Please join us as we go out and spread Christmas joy to some of our shut-ins and community members. No experience required! No talent required! The lyrics will be provided, so no need to worry about memorizing the words to your favorite carols! Start time is currently being worked out, and after spreading Christmas joy, we'll share in some holiday cheer with pizza and snacks at the Swagler's home. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

Next Sunday, we will join congregations across the globe in celebrating Christ as the King of all creation. As part of worship, we invite you to participate in a new interactive practice called Praise Prompts. These simple hand motions are designed to help us engage more deeply with the message and express our praise together in a meaningful way. We hope you'll join us in trying something new next week!

Celebrate the Christmas Season! Join us to experience the Nativity Festival, Friday, December 5, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo. This is an intergenerational event, so families with children are welcome! We will meet at the Community of Christ parking lot at 3:30 p.m. to ride together. For those who wish to meet up with us, the address is 428 N. Erie Street, located across from the courthouse. Free parking is available in the Kwik Parking lot on the left side of the building, off Erie Street. There will be over 700 nativity sets from around the world on display, many of them are newly donated by the Bowles family of Swanton. There will be decorated Christmas trees, food, and a concert at 5:30 p.m.- Tapestry and guitar. Any questions? Please call Julie Paulsen at 419-266-4650. The building is handicapped accessible. Free admission ● Donations appreciated. Sign up at the kiosk!



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Confirmation @ Zion	Today , Sunday, November 16, 12:30 p.m.
Youth Group @ Providence	Today , Sunday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.
LWR Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, November 18, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club	Tuesday, November 18, 1:00 p.m.
Choir Practice	Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study	Thursday, November 20, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Dave and Sharon Prueter in
Honor of their Wedding Anniversary! ❤️**



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!