



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
First Day of Advent, Sunday, November 30, 2025
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Finale” Fr. Fireworks by G.F. Händel

Eric Dickey

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed are you, O God, who first called light out of darkness, who is present with us now, who promises new creation. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

O God in whom we hope,

We confess that we have turned from you, and from the goodness of your reign. We resist your gentle pull that draws us close to Christ. We reject your welcome, letting old divisions fester into hostility and hate. We wander off impatiently in our own direction, rather than wait for your coming. We have refused to learn your way of peace. Forgive us, O God. Turn these hearts back to you, and gather us into your peaceable kingdom. Amen.

God is doing a new thing, here and now. See it, and know you are forgiven.

You have been found and taken by the hand.

You have been welcomed into the family of Christ.

You are freed to belong in the people of God forever. Hear it, and know it is true.

Amen.

Hymn

“The King Shall Come”

ELW 260

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

Assisting minister

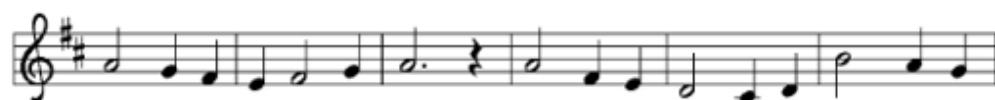


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath “He Came Down”

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have love; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection, save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

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

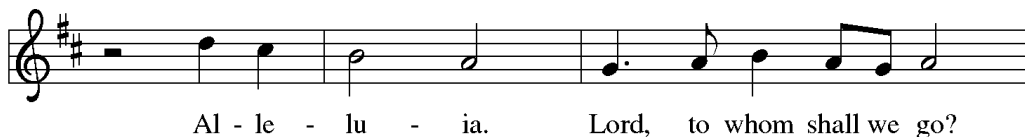
The Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires

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



The Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

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

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

Sermon

“Advent Preparation”

Vicar Natalie Downs

Hymn

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

ACS 949

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

AM God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, vicars, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing; **Tom Jennings, Larry Battles, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Luke Holtz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Laura Reimer, Greg Urbanski, Matt Jurrus, Sally, Tom Druschel, Cindy Hartbarger, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jeff Bucher, Albert Preston, Paul Ladd, Greg Ganelli, Jessica Queen, Charles Gorniak, David Reimer, Stacy Huffman, Carol Borkowski, Barb Thober, Rita Dusseau, Laynee Bishop, Shirley Lambert, Vicki Masterson, Barb Marsing, Don Dayton...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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!**

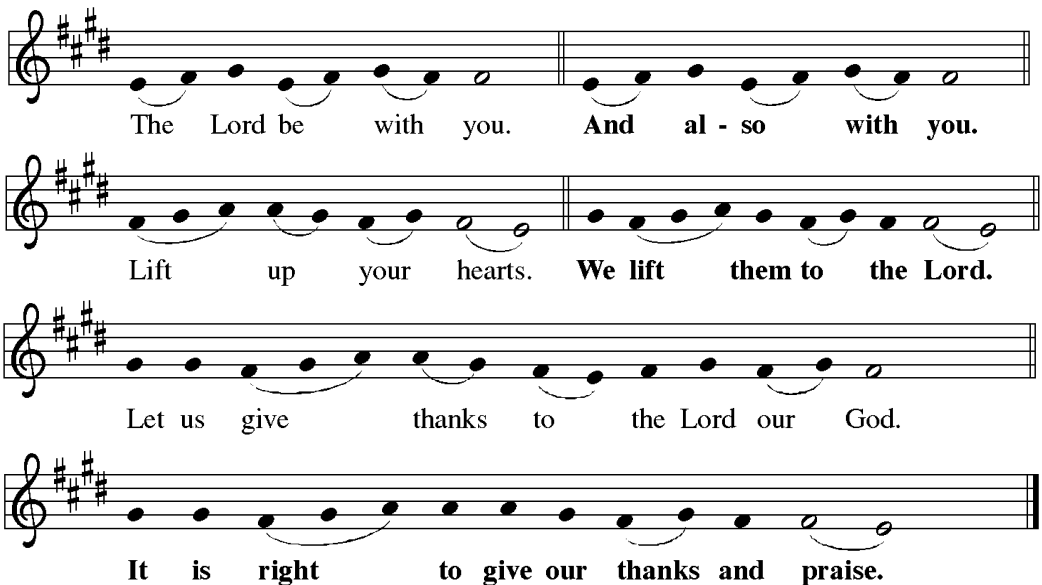
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

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 Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

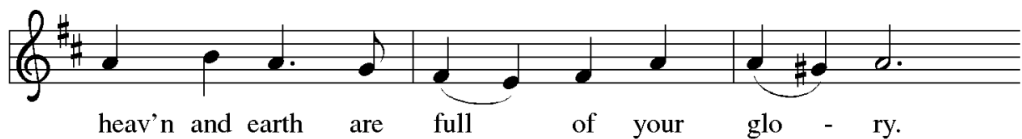
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are simple, using half and quarter notes with stems, and are connected by horizontal lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music.

****Eucharistic Prayer Continues**



The Words of Institution

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn

“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”
“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

ELW 469
ELW 470

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P May God who comes among us, Father, $\dagger$ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Soon and Very Soon”

ELW 439

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Keep Awake. **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!!!!

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 6 (last session, Today, November 30th): 21st century hymnody and contemporary music

Thursday Bible Study Looks at Wisdom Literature

Join us for our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study series at 1:00 p.m., as Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie delve into the Wisdom Literature in the Bible. These are 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 these kinds of wisdom literature in your Bible, which you might be led to study and read more in depth on your own. Join us on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council room, with weekly video summaries up online on our church Facebook and YouTube as well. See you around the table!

Sunday School Advent Series

With the beginning of Advent, our Sunday School children have launched a new series following the theme of each week’s candle. On December 21, they will celebrate with a birthday party for Jesus. As a special way to help families prepare for Christ’s coming, each child will also receive a take-home Advent bag filled with

crafts and conversation starters to help connect what we're learning in church with faith at home throughout the 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!

Women's Retreat! 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!

****Deadline for Newsletter**** Looking ahead, due to the busyness of the holiday season and upcoming vacations, the firm deadlines for the next newsletter will be **Tuesday, December 17, for our January 2026 newsletter.** Thank you for your understanding.

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

Thank you to those who have adopted a resident at the LHM! Next weekend, December 7th, is the last day to drop off your wrapped gifts under the tree in the gathering space. As you drop them off, please be sure to sign the resident sheet back in with the date and your name. Thank you for showing love and kindness as Jesus teaches us! Let's make this holiday season special for our residents.

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

2025 Congregational Meeting!

NEXT SUNDAY! December 7, following the 10:00 a.m. service.
Please plan to attend!

Congregational Breakfast – Dec. 21 at 9:00 a.m. Join us for a festive congregational breakfast on Sunday, December 21, at 9:00 a.m.! We're looking for youth families to help provide meals, and everyone is invited to come and enjoy a delicious breakfast together. A free-will offering will be collected, with all proceeds going toward updates to the youth group room. Come share food, fellowship, and fun! Scan the QR Code to sign up to help with food.



"Peace Be Still" - Women's Retreat Calling all ladies!! On February 21st, Community of Christ Lutheran will be hosting a women's retreat called "Peace Be Still: Rest, Release, Renew." Take some time to pause and enjoy a restful time of bible study, worship, spiritual practices, and fellowship. Doors will open at 8 a.m. for check-in. Breakfast and coffee/tea bar will be available before the start of the retreat. The retreat will begin at 9 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. Lunch will be included in the retreat price. The cost of attendance is \$50.00. Please feel free to invite other women in your life to attend. Reserve your spot by signing up at the kiosk, by scanning the QR code, or by following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RNs14uginT?origin=lprLink> starting in December.

A portion of the retreat funds collected will be given to Salem Lutheran Church to support their food ministry. We will also be collecting for The Period Project, a drive to collect feminine hygiene products to support the needs at Salem Lutheran. We ask that each guest consider bringing at least one item to donate in support of this ministry.



Alzheimer's Research Fundraiser: *(from Karen Jennings's)* I'm excited to share that I'll once again be hosting a *big Christmas sale* to benefit Alzheimer's Research at Lakes of Monclova on **Wednesday, December 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** We'll have a wonderful variety of items, including Christmas décor, ornaments (including Hallmark collectibles), Coca-Cola collector pieces, homemade cards, wine, winter clothing, homemade Chex Mix, stocking stuffers, a Creative Memories Christmas album, Noah's Ark figurines, and even a 7½-foot pre-lit Christmas tree with a wheeled storage bag—plus so much more! Hope to see you there! —*Karen Jennings*
Directions: From Monclova Road, turn onto Lakeside Drive. Turn left into Lakes of Monclova, then left into the parking lot and follow it right toward the large lot. Enter through the main entrance.

THIS Week

<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today , Sunday, November 30, 7:00 p.m.
Visitation Ministry	Monday, December 1, 10:30 a.m.
Care Givers	Monday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.
LWR Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.
Social Action	Wednesday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.
Choir Practice	Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.
Worship & Music	Thursday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study	Thursday, December 4, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Nativity Festival @ St. Paul's Meet in the CoC parking lot	Friday, December 5, 3:30 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Doug and Rose Ackerman.
Happy Birthday to Rose and Happy Heavenly Birthday
to Doug's dad, Henry! ❤️ 🙏**