



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany,
February 1, 2026, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

**Musical Prelude
(10:00)**

“Minuet in B minor” by J.S. Bach
“Beautiful Savior”

Eric Dickey
Bell Choir

EPIPHANY CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, One God, the source of all life, who comes to us as a beacon to guide our lives. **Amen.**

Together with one voice, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

O God in whom we hope,

Have mercy on us. We have turned from your ways and wandered into the wilderness spaces of life. We have not loved you or our neighbor with an open heart, just as you called us to live. We hurt with our words and actions. We ignore the needs around us. We lack the call to be good stewards in the gifts you have given to us. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and by the power of your Spirit, bring us back to life. Amen.

Beloved of God, hear these words of assurance. God does not give up on you. God's steadfast love endures forever. In the name of Jesus Christ (+), your sins are forgiven. Remember: you are children of God, forgiven and set free. **Amen.**

Hymn

“As We Gather at the Table”

ELW 522

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

“Drawn to the Light”

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn-ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the
light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a
sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us
who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

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

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Sermon

“The God Who Blesses”

Pastor Stephen Bond

Hymn

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

ELW 710

10:00 a.m.

Holy Baptism of Graham Smigelski

(Please refer to your hymnal, page 227)

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

AM God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old-growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way, especially; **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, David Reimer, Pastor Ray Gotchling, Jim Gebhart, Jim Dorton, Mike Hinegardner, Eric, Greg Ganalli, Shirley Cofer...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **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 majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, 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”

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, Lamb of God.

Hymn

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers *in their homes, nursing homes, or in hospitals*. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise **✚** bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”
VS 3 Low Voices VS 4 High Voices

ELW 669

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Postlude

(10:00 a.m.)

“Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Bell Choir

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!!!!

Worship Whys—Sunday Adult Forum Our weekly Sunday Adult Forum resumes this January with a new series exploring our patterns of worship as Lutheran Christians and with our own particular traditions here at Community of Christ. Have you ever wondered why we do certain things in worship, or wondered where they come from? How about the differences in traditions between different Christian denominations, or the ways our practices here are different from other Lutheran congregations in other places? And how have Christian worship patterns changed over time? All of these questions are a part of our new series, “Worship Whys,” which starts today, between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services in the Bible study/Council room. Everyone is welcome, and we invite you to bring your thoughts, questions, and curiosity!

Thursday Bible Study Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m., we host a Bible study (in the Council/Bible study room) that is open to all, and so far, this year, we’ve got a great variety of things to explore in the Scriptures. Here’s the slate of topics and presenters we will study in February: *Feb. 5—Final session of “In the Beginning Was the Word...*” This will conclude our four-part survey of the opening prologue of John’s Gospel and all its rich theology, powerful poetry, and invitation to be in relationship with the Christ whose story is told in the Gospel. *Feb. 12—Vicar Natalie Presents...* In a one-session class, Vicar Natalie will share some of her work that she’s been doing on her seminary thesis on the Holy Spirit in the creative process, in music. This will be her final time presenting in the Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, so you’re welcome to join us for one more last hurrah! *Feb. 19 and 26 -Encountering the Book of Acts* Starring in the second half of February, we’ll be doing a longer deep dive into the New Testament book of Acts to learn the story of the early church and how the band of rag-tag fishermen and tax collectors from Galilee grew into a movement that reached outward to the very heart of the Roman Empire and became a “found family” of Jewish and Gentile people, rich and poor, enslaved and free, women and men, and lived through the growing pains of that outreach to change the world. Remember, too, that we’ll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media each week, so that you can know what we’ll be looking at each week in case you miss a week or want to join in!

Wednesday Lenten Dinners at 6:00 p.m. and Midweek Worship at 7:00 p.m. (starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18) As part of the weekly rhythm of the Lenten season, we will once again host a series of simple covered dish meals each Wednesday evening in Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 6:00 p.m. before our weekly midweek evening prayer service at 7:00 p.m. We would invite you to sign up at the kiosk to bring a dish to share, whether soup, salad, a simple dessert, or other elements of a meal to share supper together in fellowship before worship. This year, our Ash Wednesday meal will be hosted (set up and clean-up) by folks from the Outreach Committee, and our other remaining Lenten meals will be hosted by families from our youth and confirmation programs (for parents of youth and confirmands, this should sound familiar to you, but as a refresher, you are invited to sign up on the “hosting” sign-up at the kiosk with another family or two to help with the preparation/set-up and clean-up for one or more of those meals if you are able, and all the free-will offering from those meals will help us save money for future youth activities like the National Youth Gathering coming up in 2027!). We hope you’ll be able to share a meal and break bread with other church members and friends and then join us for a brief service of prayer, song, and Scripture at 7:00 p.m. throughout Lent!

"Peace Be Still" - Women's Retreat

****Registration & Payment deadline is Sunday, February 8th!****

Calling all ladies!! On February 21st, Community of Christ Lutheran will be hosting a women's retreat called "Peace Be Still: Release, Rest, Receive." 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 provided by the Whitehouse Inn. This is included in the retreat price. The cost of attendance is \$50.00. Please feel free to invite other women in your life to attend. **We have 10 Slots left, so hurry and sign up today before we are full!!!!** A portion of the retreat funds collected will be given to Salem Lutheran Church to support their food ministry.

****Please place your payment in the “Women’s Retreat” envelope located on the large table in the gathering space, then place it in the card box no later than Sunday, February 8th. Thank you!****

Reserve your spot by scanning the QR code or by following this link:

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



The Period Project - Feminine Hygiene Product collection Feb 1-22



Did you know... **1 in 3 low-income women report missing work & school due to a lack of period supplies, and one out of four students has missed school due to a lack of period products.**

Community of Christ Lutheran Church is participating in the Period Project to help raise awareness about period poverty and collect feminine hygiene products for Norf-End Neighbors in Toledo, OH. All new, **sealed** products of pads and tampons of varying sizes are being accepted for donation from February 1st to 22nd. Donations will also be accepted during the "Peace Be Still" women's retreat."

All donations can be dropped off in the box labeled "Period Project" in the Gathering Space. For those who wish to provide a monetary donation, all checks can be made out to Community of Christ Lutheran Church. Please indicate in the subject line "Period Project."

Calling all men of the church! The Women's Retreat Team needs your help. If you're able to sign up for one, two, or even all of the time slots, we would be truly grateful. Please sign up at the kiosk to lend a hand. Thank you for your support!

Join Us on Feb. 22 for Vicar Natalie's Farewell ❤️+

It's hard to believe that Vicar Natalie's time with us is coming soon to its end—the past year and a half has gone by so quickly! As we announced at the annual meeting at the beginning of December, we are planning a special celebration and farewell event for Vicar Natalie on her last Sunday with us, which will be Feb. 22, 2026. Here are a few things to know and mark on your calendar now: First of all, we'll have a single service that Sunday, at 9:00 a.m. We're doing that for a couple of reasons: first of all, Vicar Natalie herself has written some special music she is dedicating to the congregation to be premiered that morning. The choir is working on learning it and sharing it with us in worship, and we want the whole congregation to be together to share those moments. We will host a breakfast after the service (egg casseroles, sausage, French toast fingers, fruit, cake) when the stress and focus of conducting the choir's special music can be over, we can just celebrate Vicar Natalie's time with us and her gifts for ministry as we wish her Godspeed and share our farewell messages and good wishes with her for that last weekend in February. **We have 3 sign-up sheets for this event - one for a headcount, needed by Feb 15 (adults and children), to know how much food we need, one for help on Friday, Feb 20, 9:00 a.m. to prepare some of the food, and one for help cleaning up after breakfast. We will collect a freewill offering to help offset the cost of the food. Save the date and sign up now to help us mark this important milestone!**

February Book Club: *The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man* by Paul Newman

- ❖ **When:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Where:** Community of Christ Adult Sunday School/Church Council Room
- ❖ **Book:** *The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man* by Paul Newman (edited by David Rosenthal)

What is your favorite Paul Newman movie? Take time to visit Paul on screen, then read this raw, honest memoir. Based on interviews collected by Paul Newman and his friends, screenwriter Stewart Stein, this honest look into the life of actor, race car driver, and philanthropist Paul Newman reviews a man who was anything but ordinary.

Women's Bible Study: *The Way of Wisdom: A Study of the Book of Proverbs*

When: 8 Weeks, March 3-April 21, 2026 - 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Where: Community of Christ Adult Sunday School/Church Council Room

Six women Bible Study Leaders will be helping us understand the true meaning of Wisdom as illustrated in Proverbs. The format is to read a chapter in the workbook, do any homework and then come to Bible Study to discuss and ask questions. We will then watch the teaching on the DVD and, if there is time, discuss it! A full morning of learning! The leaders on the DVD are Jen Wilken, Ruth Chou Simons, Kelly Mintor, Adrienne Camp, Elizabeth Woodson, and Courtney Doctor.

Please sign up at the kiosk, or text me, Kathryn Whitacre, with your contact information at 567-393-9444. Please purchase the workbook *The Way of Wisdom*, Lifeway Press. You can get it directly from Lifeway or (usually cheaper if you have PRIME) from Amazon. Invite a friend to attend; you don't have to be a member of Community of Christ to take part in this learning opportunity.



**Altar Flowers given by Neil & Susan Raymond
in Honor of Graham Smigelski's Baptism**  



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, February 1, 7:00 p.m.
Visitation Ministry	Monday, February 2, 10:30 a.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, February 3, 1:00 p.m.
Choir Practice	Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.
Worship & Music	Thursday, February 5, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study	Thursday, February 5, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.
Council/Staff Retreat	Saturday, February 7 9:00 a.m.

YOUTH - Glo-over Lock-in

A night of light, faith, and fun

When: Noon Feb. 15th - 6:00 a.m. Feb. 16th (No School, President's Day)

Location: Providence Lutheran Church on Airport Hwy.

Who's it for: All youth in grades 6 through 12 are welcome!

Activities: Glow-in-the-dark nerf wars, black lights, glow games, & More

Adult help needed!

Scan this QR code or go to:

<https://cocplcyouth.cls.co/glooverhelp>

to see how you might be able to help



RSVP

Save your child's spot by completing the permission slip. Scan the QR code or go to:

<https://cocplcyouth.cls.co/gloover>



The God Who Blesses

A song for Graham (drawn from Matthew 5:1-12)

Ours is the God who fills up the empty hands
who binds up the wounds of every broken heart
seeks out the wallflowers and leads them out to dance
who stitches and mends the ones who've come apart
Ours is the God whose promises are true
And this is the God, today, who blesses you.

Ours is the God who loves the merciful
who feeds hungry mouths with justice and with bread
who gathers the lost with tender, gentle pull
who shows up to roll the stone and raise the dead
Ours is the God who makes this old world new.
And this is the God, today, who blesses you.

Ours is the God revealed, where hearts are pure
Who comforts the ones reviled for doing good
Ours is the God whose kindness will endure
Able to take the nails and bear the wood
You will belong, no matter what you do.
Here at the waters, our God blesses you.