



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Baptism of Our Lord, Sunday,
January 11, 2026, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Prelude in C Major” by J.S. Bach

Eric Dickey

EPIPHANY CONFESION 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

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

ELW 455

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

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

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

The Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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 3:13-17

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

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

Sermon	<i>“Trading Places”</i>	Pastor Stephen Bond
Hymn	“Wade in the Water”	ELW 459

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 Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

AM Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, 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, Paul Ladd, Greg Ganelli, Jessica Queen, Charles Gorniak, David Reimer, Betty, Pam Cochran, Sheri Reichling, Pastor Ray Gotchling, Jim Gebhart...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Promising God, in baptism, we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, especially Gary Yokum and Jon Rhoades. We trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. 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.

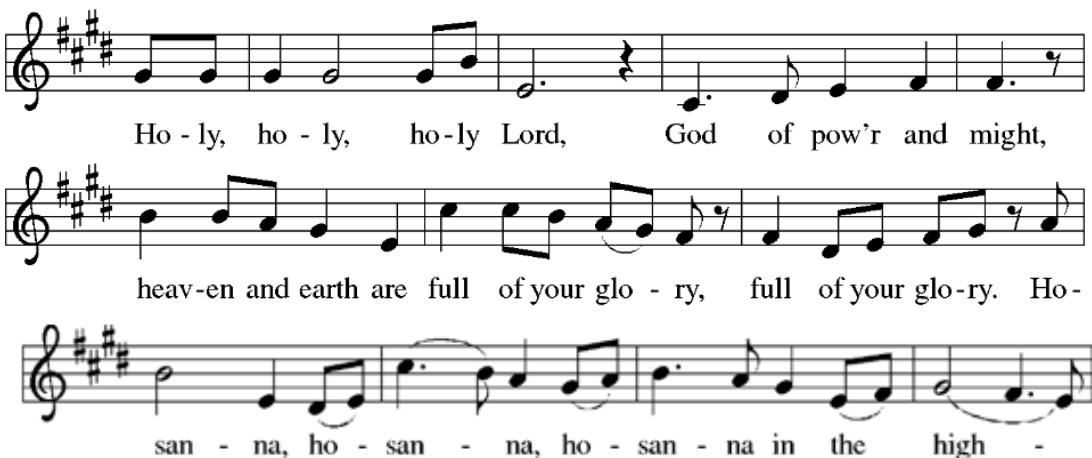
P Lift up your hearts.

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. Bless-ed 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

“Spirit of Gentleness”

ELW 396

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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 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

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW 423

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **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!!!!

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 *“In the Beginning Was the Word”*

Every year on Christmas Eve here at Community of Christ, as we light our candles, we hear the opening passage of John’s Gospel and its well-known opening: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...”* This opening section of John’s Gospel is unique—it feels less like a biography (which the rest of the Gospel feels like) and more like a poem or a hymn. It zooms out from the particular details of first-century Palestine to the creation of the entire universe, before bringing us right back to the nitty-gritty of life under the Roman Empire and the dusty roads of Judea. Within the Scriptures, this section, often called the *Prologue* of John’s Gospel, is one of a kind. And yet, we rarely take the time for a deep dive to delve into the theology, imagery, and biblical connections that are all waiting to be explored there, especially in the rush of the days around Christmas. So... let’s try something different. Once the loaded schedules and overstuffed Christmas celebrations have come and gone for another year, and once the lights and the tree are down (at least at the church), you are invited to a four-part study on Thursdays, beginning on January 8, on the Prologue of John’s Gospel. What do these powerful, familiar, mysterious words mean? What do they say about Jesus, and why does it matter? What difference do they make in our lives? And what Good News have we maybe been missing out on by only reading through them at a surface level?

Join us around the Bible study table for this study in the new year, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on January 8th, 2026!

"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 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. **There are only 50 slots available, so hurry and sign up today before we open this up to the greater community!** 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. 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**
- 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."

The 2026 offering envelopes are now available on the table in the hallway! These envelopes cover weekly offerings as well as special services like Lenten Wednesdays, Holy Week, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, and more. If you have any questions about how to complete your weekly offering or are unable to locate your envelopes, please feel free to reach out to the church office. For those who prefer to give electronically, we offer the Simply Giving option, which allows for automatic withdrawals from your account. For more details, please contact Michelle at secretary@commofchrist.org. **Thank you for your generous support of the Lord's work at Community of Christ and beyond!**

Toledo Walleye Game Join us for a family fun night at the Huntington Center for a Walleye Game on Friday, January 23, 2026, \$17 per person. There are 53 total tickets available. To reserve your spot, sign up at the kiosk and submit your payment **TODAY, January 11, 2026**. Cash is the easiest option, but contact Chad Ackerman at 1chadackerman@gmail.com if you need alternatives. You can also drop the exact amount in a marked envelope with Michelle in the office. Don't miss out—sign up today!

Storytelling Event and Coffeehouse—January 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Concert Committee is excited to invite you (and friends, family, and neighbors!) to a unique first-of-its-kind event here at Community of Christ this January 18. That afternoon at 3:00 p.m., we'll be holding a Storytelling Event and Coffeehouse, here in the fellowship hall, with a variety of storytellers, from both inside the congregation (including our own Vicar Natalie) and special guests from other places in Northwestern Ohio, each with a story to tell! In between presenters, we'll have special music, courtesy of our own Eric Dickey and Sarah Magoun, and we'll feature a variety of special desserts and coffee (and other beverages) for an afternoon of entertainment and enjoyment. We hope you'll join us for this Storytelling and Coffeehouse event at Community of Christ!

Save the Date: 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 already planning a special celebration and

farewell event for Vicar Natalie on her last Sunday with us, which will be Feb. 22, 2026. You'll see more details in the February newsletter, but here are a few things to know and mark on your calendar now: First of all, we'll have a single service that morning, just for one 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 to have the whole congregation together to share those moments. We're also going to be hosting breakfast after the service, when the stress and focus of conducting the choir's special music can be over, and we can just celebrate Vicar Natalie's time with us and her gifts for ministry as we wish her Godspeed. We'll share more in the coming weeks about how you can contribute to the breakfast and how we can share our farewell messages and good wishes with her for that last weekend in February. But for now, save the date to help us mark this important milestone!

Epiphany Activity Bags for Children and Families— This past Advent, kids and families in the congregation were all invited to take home an Advent activity bag with crafts, ideas, and faith-themed activities to count down the weeks of Advent as we looked ahead to Christmas. From the paper snowflake to learn about hoping for something you can't see yet, to the tea light nativity. We hope you enjoyed getting to do these weekly activities as a family throughout December. Starting today, we invite you to get a new kit with activities for the upcoming season of Epiphany, as we hear both about the Magi following the Star to see the Christ-child and other stories of people who were called to follow Jesus as his disciples. This is a great time of year for family faith practices like the Chalk House Blessing and a yearly "star word," as well as a few surprises we'll share more about in the weeks to come. Look for our weekly videos on Facebook to learn more about each week's activity, and you're invited to try them together as a family! If you missed getting a bag last weekend, see Bryce or Pastor Steve.

This Week at
**Community
of Christ!**

<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Confirmation Class @ COC	Today, Sunday, January 11, 12:30 p.m.
Christian Education	Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Concert Committee	Tuesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m.
Choir Practice	Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study	Thursday, January 15, 1:00 p.m.
Stewardship	Thursday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, January 15, 7:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Carol Wiemken.
In Memory of Don Bell and Ron Wiemken ❤️**



ANTHONY WAYNE AREA YOUTH

BOWLING NIGHT

Come hang out for a night of bowling, tasty food and drinks, and awesome company. Bring your best game and see if you can snag the top score!

DATE: JANUARY 18TH, 2026

TIME: 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM

LOCATION: INCREDIBOWL

5255 HEATHERDOWNS BLVD, TOLEDO, OH

**6th–12th graders are invited to RSVP with the
QR Code or link by no later than Jan. 11
Cost: \$15 per person due with RSVP**





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!