



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Second Sunday after Epiphany,
January 18, 2026, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Verset” by Abraham van den Kerckhoven

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

“Arise, Your Light Has Come”

ELW 314

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, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
 pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
 while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
 in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
 in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
 Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
 I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
 and my reward with my God."
⁵ And now the LORD says,
 who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
 and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
 and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
 to raise up the tribes of Jacob
 and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
 that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
⁷ Thus says the LORD,
 the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
 the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
 princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
 the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our 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: John 1:29-42

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

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

Sermon

“Come and See”

Pastor Stephen Bond

Hymn

“Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult”

ELW 696

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 Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness, 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, Pam Cochran, Sheri Reichling, Pastor Ray Gottschling, Jim Gebhart, Bonnie Williams, Megan Scheltz, Nancy Meyers, Richard Schroeder...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. 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

“Lamb of God”

ELW 336

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.**

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

“We Are Marching in the Light”

ELW 866

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 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 at 1:00 p.m. *****NO BIBLE STUDY JANUARY*****

"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: 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. **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."

Storytelling Event and Coffeehouse—TODAY! 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!

Youth Grades 6 – 12 – Bowling TONIGHT, January 18, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. @ Incredibowl: 5255 Heatherdowns Blvd, Toledo. If you would like to attend and have not registered, please don't hesitate to contact Bryce at cyclone@commofchrist.org or 567-522-0625. Cost is \$15 per person.

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!



**Altar Flowers given by The King's
In celebration of family January Birthday's! ❤️**