



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany,
January 25, 2026, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Trio en Chaconne” by André Raison

Eric Dickey

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

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

ELW 582

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

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

Anthem (10:00)

“Come to the Water”

Choir

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For 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.

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 4:12-23

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

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
 on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
 have seen a great light,
 and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
 light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers.

¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Sermon

“Kingdom Reality”

Vicar Natalie Downs

Hymn

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

VS 3 High Voices, VS 4 Low Voices

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 Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy Lover, you care for newly married couples, the vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick, 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, Sheri Reichling, Pastor Ray Gotchling, Jim Gebhart, Bonnie Williams, Megan Scheltz, Nancy Meyer, Ann Reisner, Jim Dorton, Mike Hinegardner, Matthew & Hollis...** and all others whom we remember in silence. We also pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death, especially, Betty Kozak. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. 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.

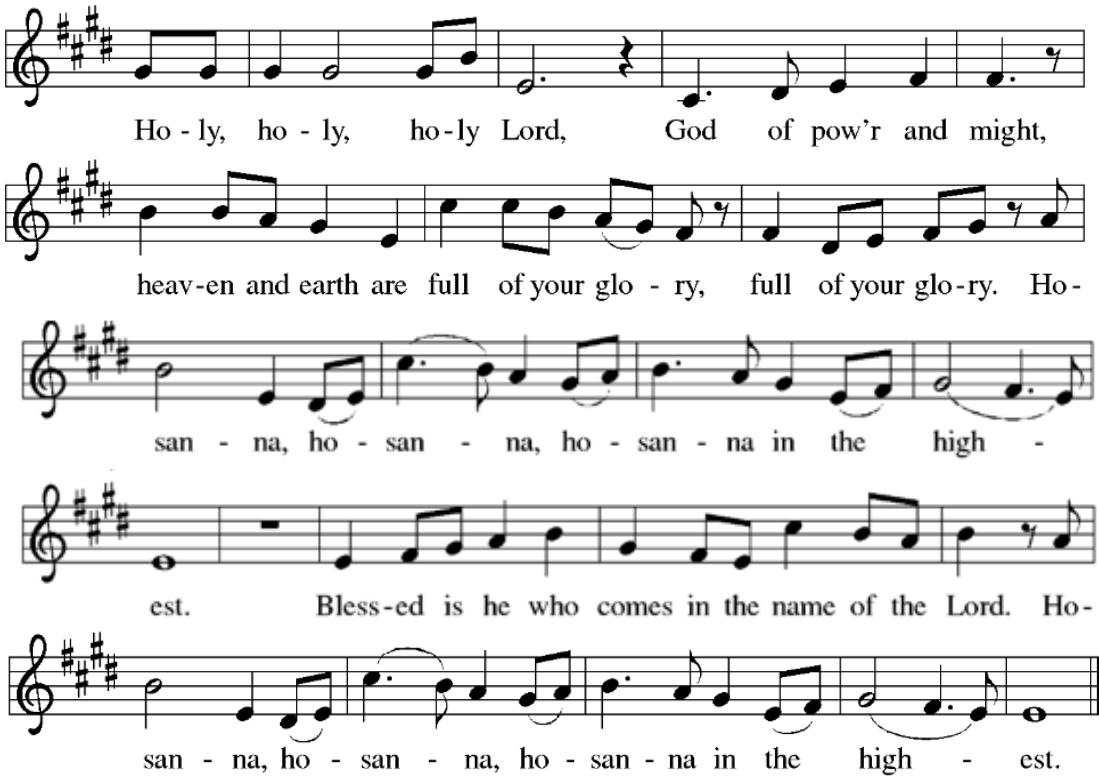
P Lift up your hearts.

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

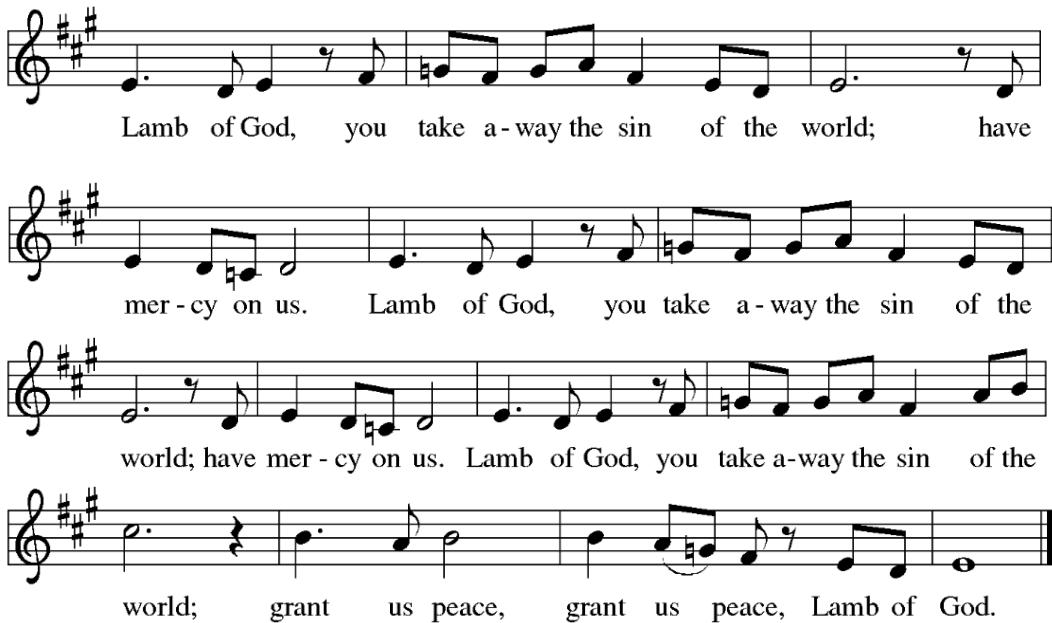
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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

“On Eagle’s Wings”

ELW 787

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

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

ELW 841

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.

"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. **Slots are filling up quickly, 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. Thank you!

Reserve your spot by scanning the QR code or by following this link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/RNs14uginT?origin=lprLink>.



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

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.”

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!



| Event | Day and Time |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Confirmation @ Zion | Today, Sunday, January 25, 12:30 p.m. |
| Youth Group @ CoC | Today, Sunday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. |
| Conversations & More | Tuesday, January 27, 1:00 p.m. |
| Choir Practice | Wednesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday Bible Study | Thursday, January 29, 1:00 p.m. |
| Bell Choir | Thursday, January 29, 7:00 p.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>

