



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 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, André Raison

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 Lord our God, who first called us into being, whose relentless love went all the way to a cross, whose Spirit gathers us together into new life. **Amen**
Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence for reflection.*

Merciful God,

We confess that we have turned away from you and gone astray from the way of Jesus. We have resisted the pull of your Spirit, and we have ignored the needs of neighbors around us, whom you have called us to love. We have allowed greed, fear, indifference, and self-centeredness to lead us into dead ends, and we have let ourselves become entangled in sin. We need you to set us free, to take us by the hand, and to bring us to life again. Forgive us, O God, and make us new creations.

Beloved of God, you have been found by grace and claimed by Christ. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven and you are no longer captive in the grip of death, for Christ has defeated its power in the cross. Through the Spirit that has been poured into your hearts, you have been brought into God's family and are free to live anew.

Amen

Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335

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.**

Lenten Theme Hymn

“You Gather Us, O Christ”



1. You gath-er us, O Christ, and—in your fam - i - ly, the
2. You gath-er us, O Christ, your Spir - it gives us birth, and



lost are found, our wounds are bound, and cap—tives are set— free.
you have come, not just for some, but for— this whole wide earth.



You gath-er us, O Christ, here in this ver - y room, so—
You gath-er us, O Christ, that we might trust in you, from



all our days we will walk your ways, from cross to emp - ty tomb.
death and grave you have come to save, and we— are born a - new.

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

The Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

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

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

Sermon

“Jesus Draws Insiders (...And Turns Them Inside Out)”

Pastor Stephen Bond

Hymn

“God Loved the World”

ELW 323

VS 3 High Voices, VS 4 Low Voices

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 Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

AM Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss; **Tom Jennings, Larry**

Battles, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Luke Holtz, Ron Hetherwick, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Staci, Greg Urbanski, Matt Jurrus, Sally, Tom Druschel, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jeff Bucher, Albert Preston, David Reimer, Pastor Ray Gottschling, Jim Gebhart, Larry Hudson, Bryan Lauer, Amy Meagher, Ann Reisner, Morgan & unborn baby, Richard Schroeder, Drew Trotter, Marci, Cheryl Fischer... and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, especially Judy Pitchford, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
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 O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C And also with you.

C We lift them to the Lord.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**Eucharistic Prayer Continues



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, 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”



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn

“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”
“Change My Heart, O God”

ELW 451
ELW 801

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, 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 in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ Bless you now and always.

Sending Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW 803

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Believe the good news. **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!!!!**

Adult Forum Explores Luther’s Small Catechism, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Beginning on March 1, our Adult Forum is inviting EVERYBODY to catechism! We’re inviting all who would like to join us to explore the essentials of the faith as summarized in Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. We’ll explore the meaning in our lives of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Holy Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and the Christian Life, using the insights of Luther’s own “handbook for the faith” called the Small Catechism. Whether you first learned these things long ago in a confirmation class or you have never had a chance to study the

catechism, this is a great chance to explore some of the Big Ideas of the Christian faith and get at why it all matters, and what it all means. Join us between services starting this March in the Bible study/council room!

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! We will continue to explore the Scriptures on 26 -*Encountering the Book of Acts*. 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!

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.

CoC Welcomes Tapestry Harp-and-Guitar Duo in Concert, March 15 at 3:00

p.m. After having a great time in January with our Storytellers Coffeehouse event (and enjoying the tales of seven storytellers along with live music from Eric Dickey and Sarah Magoun), our Concert Committee is excited to welcome *Tapestry* to Community of Christ on the afternoon of Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m. *Tapestry* is comprised of harpist, Denise Grupp-Verbon and acoustic guitarist/multi-instrumentalist, Michael Grupp-Verbon and is based in Toledo Ohio. Performing and recording together for more than 11 years, Denise and Michael have created a truly distinctive sound, with their unique arranging and composing, and by the intertwining

of different instruments. Playing many different styles of music from Celtic & Folk to Pop, Classical, and more, Tapestry is sure to have something for everyone. We'll be blessed to have Denise Grupp-Verbon playing her harp on that Sunday morning in worship to give us a preview of the music later that afternoon, so plan to join us on both Sunday morning and afternoon that day! As always, we'll invite your free will offerings to help support future concerts and the ministry and mission of both Community of Christ and mission partners beyond our doors.

Save the date for the evening of March 7th. Fellowship invites you to Dinners for 8! A fun way to spend time sharing food and fellowship. Sign up with your name and number by TODAY, **March 1st** at the kiosk.

Dish Pickup Reminder 🗓️ If you have any dishes or serving items that you've used for meals at the church, please remember to pick them up by **March 31**. Any items remaining after that date will be donated to **Goodwill**. Thank you for helping us keep our kitchen organized and for sharing your generosity with others!

Recycling Update: As many of you know, aluminum cans have been collected and scrapped to help support our building loan. At this time, the church will no longer be accepting cans for recycling. If someone would like to take over this effort, please contact the church office. Thank you for your support!

Time to Order Easter Lilies!

Flowers may be dedicated to the *memory* of or in *honor* of loved ones. Please place your envelope in the offering plate **no later than Sunday, March 22**. Thank you for helping make our Easter celebration beautiful!



**Altar Flowers given by Michael & Cammie Abraham
in celebration of Emma's 19th Birthday** ❤️ 🎂 🎉

† Lenten Services 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4 - Wednesday, March 25

🍲 Soup Suppers 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4 – Wednesday, March 25



| <i>Event</i> | <i>Day and Time</i> |
|----------------------|---|
| Youth Group @ CoC | Today, Sunday, March 1, 7:00 p.m. |
| Visitation Ministry | Monday, March 2, 10:30 a.m. |
| Ladies Bible Study | Tuesday, March 3, 8:30 a.m. |
| Quilt Ministry | Tuesday, March 3, 10:00 a.m. |
| Outreach | Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m. |
| Social Action | Wednesday, March 4, 10:00 a.m. |
| Soup Supper | Wednesday, March 4, 6:00 p.m. |
| Lenten Service | Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. |
| Worship and Music | Thursday, March 5, 10:00 a.m. |
| Thursday Bible Study | Thursday, March 5, 1:00 p.m. |
| Bell Choir | Thursday, March 5, 7:00 p.m. |
| Blood Drive | Friday, March 6, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. |
| Dinners for 8 | Saturday, March 7 @ your assigned time and home |



Blood Drive
Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Community Center
 6517 Finzel
 Whitehouse, OH 43571

Friday, March 6, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: COMMUNITYCHRIST or call 1-800-RED CROSS.



Give In March for a \$15 Gift Card by email & successful donations get A1C testing! rcblood.org/March

