



*Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter,
May 3, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.*



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

Pam Stover

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, retracing the mark made on us in our baptism.

Blessed be the God who raises the dead, the risen Christ who meets us where we are, and the Spirit of Life who has claimed us forever.

Amen

We give you thanks, O God, for calling creation into being in the beginning, and for calling us into the family of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

We are your Easter people.

We give you thanks, Lord Jesus, for finding us when we are overcome by fear and distraught by the turbulent world around us and giving us the peace of your presence.

We are your Easter people.

We give you thanks, Holy Spirit, for stirring up among us hope and courage to be witnesses in the world, embodying the way of Christ.

We are your Easter people.

As you first made us your own through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, so now remind us who and Whose we are by your grace as we come into your presence.

Amen

Hymn

“Earth and All Stars!”

ELW 731

VS 3 Low Voices, VS 4 High Voices

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.**

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.

To refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *To refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *To refrain*

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

L Here ends the Reading C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

L Here ends the Reading C Thanks be to God!

Congregation:

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

The Holy Gospel John 14:1-14

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house, there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

Sermon

“The Face of God”

Pastor Steve Bond

The 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

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

AM God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be

agents of compassion and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those 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, Greg Urbanski, Matt Jurrus, Tom Druschel, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jeff Bucher, Albert Preston, Pastor Ray Gottschling, Morgan & unborn baby, Baby Elliot, Mya Chapp, David Atkinson, Maurice Atkinson, Karen Meyer, Kori, Rich Rison, Claudia Koperski, Ginny Krueger, Betty, Mike, Bob Beers, BethaLynn Mbaya, Nancy Atkins ...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of community, you call us together into relationships with one another for mutual support and to embody your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today, those who feel alone or isolated, and those who have found deep connection in the body of Christ. Strengthen friendships and families, bless those who are newly married, like Pastor Mike Hanck, as well as those whose relationships are estranged and troubled. Bless our mission partners like the people of Salem Lutheran Church and Providence Lutheran Church, and our companion church bodies in Tanzania as well. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

We practice open communion, which means all baptized believers are welcome to receive the Sacrament. However, if you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate by crossing your arms. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it and gluten-free wafers if needed. Ushers will dismiss you by row.

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
 One who comes in your name. 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”

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

“On Eagle’s Wings”

ELW 787

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **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/in prisons/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 God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”
VS 3 Low Voices, VS 4 High Voices

ELW 389

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

“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.

We are continuing our Adult Forum, 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, continuing this spring in the Bible study/council room!

Thursday Bible Study Opens Up the Book of Acts Join us for our current series in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study, as we take a 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. Join us weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council Room as we work through the book of Acts and let it spark our own ways of living out our faith and sharing the good news of Jesus in the world around us. Remember, too, that we’ll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media (see the church Facebook page) each week, so that you can know what we’ll be looking at each week in case you miss a week, want to join in, or to share with a friend!

Many Hands Make Light Work!!! We are forming a committee to assist with setting up tables and chairs before church events and taking them down afterward. These gatherings, whether fellowship meals, celebrations, funerals, or special programs, don’t just happen on their own. They require a bit of preparation and a team willing to step in

and make the space welcoming and functional for everyone. We might also ask that members of this committee help with the setup of the gathering space for funerals.

Responsibilities include arranging tables and chairs according to event needs, ensuring spaces are safe and organized, and returning everything to its proper place once the event concludes. Many hands make light work, and with a committed group, the time and effort required from each person can remain manageable.

Volunteering for this committee is a great way to serve in a practical, meaningful way, especially for those who enjoy hands-on tasks or may prefer helping outside of the spotlight. It's also a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and contribute to the sense of community that makes our church feel like home.

If you're interested in joining or would like more information, please reach out to the church office. Your willingness to help makes a real difference, and we're grateful for every person who steps forward to serve.

Thank you for considering being part of this important ministry!

Rooted Youth – School's Out Celebration! You made it through another school year—come celebrate with us! Join us for a fun-filled evening featuring: *Cornhole Tournament *Volleyball *Campfire *S'mores *Cookout **Date:** May 28, **Time:** 6:00–10:00 PM, **Who:** Students in grades 6–12, **Location:** Providence Lutheran Church 8131 Airport Hwy., Holland, OH, **RSVP:** Text *SCHOOLSOUT* to (567) 522-0525. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the end of the school year together!

New “Go Team Jesus” Stickers to Help Support Salem! Check out our new foam-finger inspired stickers that say, “Go Team Jesus!” in several different colors, on the table in the Gathering Space! We'd invite you to get one or more, which are perfect for putting on your laptop, travel mug, phone case, notebook, or car bumper, and we'd invite your donations of \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00, which we'll use to help support our mission partnerships with Salem Lutheran Church in the north end of Toledo. Get yours today!

Risk Management Task Force – Volunteers Needed! We are forming a Risk Management Task Force and are seeking members of the congregation who would be interested in serving. This team will help review and strengthen practices across all areas of church life to minimize risk and promote a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for all. We are looking for individuals who are thoughtful, attentive, and willing to share their time and insight in this important work. If you have experience in areas such as safety, facilities, health care, or simply have a heart for helping our

church operate responsibly, we would love to have you join us. If you are interested or would like more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kevin Steinman at 419-707-1943 or the church office. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve! Our first meeting will be held on May 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council/Bible Study Room.

Young Adults and Families Gathering—May 16, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Over the past several months, several of our young families and young adults at Community of Christ have been brainstorming and considering the idea of regular monthly gatherings for fellowship, conversation, a simple shared meal, and some explorations of our faith. In April, we kicked off what we hope will be a monthly time for a shared meal, with child-care provided, here at the church, with a regular time of 5:00-6:30 p.m. (time enough for eating and conversation but also brief enough that kiddos with early bedtimes can get home, too). And now we are continuing in May with a gathering on the evening of Saturday, May 16. We'd like to invite you to join us—and if so, to RSVP by **Thursday, May 7**--for a gathering with other young adults and families, good food, and some deeper conversation. As we get closer we'll send a follow-up email inviting those who can attend to update on menu plans and other details, but for now we just want to invite you to SAVE THE DATE and hopefully plan to join us, knowing that we'll have some youth lined up to help with keeping an eye on kiddos after we eat so that our time can also include more focused conversation. RSVP to Pastor Steve or Michelle in the church office (secretary@commofchrist.org) by **May 7** to join us this month!

Cherry Fest! WE NEED YOU to get your walking shoes on! The 43rd annual Whitehouse Cherry Fest is coming up, and we'd love for you to join the Outreach Committee in walking in the parade on **Saturday, June 13th**. The 1-mile stroll lines up on Oakbrook Dr at noon, the parade kicks off at 1 p.m., and will take you down Waterville Street to Providence Street and through downtown Whitehouse. Candy for passing out will be provided, just bring your smile! Please sign up on the sheet located at the kiosk; the exact meeting spot at Oakbrook will be determined closer to parade day.

The Ladies will gather for lunch on Friday, May 22, at 11:30 a.m. This month, we'll be meeting at Te'kela in Perrysburg (25481 N. Dixie Hwy). Please sign up on the sheet at the kiosk so we can make reservations. All ladies are invited—feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

Rooted Youth Event May 24

On May 24, Rooted has been invited to join youth from churches across Northwest Ohio for a special evening of connection and worship. The night will include time to hang out together, enjoy snacks, experience modern worship, and hear from a speaker who is close in age to our youth. We will meet at the Community of Christ parking lot at 6:30 p.m. to carpool together to Epworth United Methodist Church and plan to return by 9:30 p.m. Events like this are a wonderful opportunity for our youth to see that they are part of something bigger than just one congregation; they are part of the wider church. Please RSVP by texting Bryce at (567) 522-0525 so we can plan rides accordingly.



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Confirmation @ COC	Today, Sunday, May 3, 12:30 p.m.
Youth Group @ COC	Today, Sunday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.
Visitation Ministry	Monday, Sunday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.
Outreach	Tuesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.
Social Action	Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 a.m.
Worship and Music	Thursday, May 7, 10:00 a.m.
Stewardship	Thursday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.
Funeral Service for LuAnn Shuman	Saturday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.



Altar Flowers given to the Glory of God! † ❤️ 🙏



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!