



*Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter,
May 10, 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

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

ELW 408

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 and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy, receive the prayers of all your children and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 Acts 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What, therefore, you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor, he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

The Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few,

that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L The Word of the Lord 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 14:15-21

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while, the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day, you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

Sermon

“The Counsel for the Defense”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

ELW 816

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 new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, 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, 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, Rich Rison, Ginny Krueger, Nancy Atkins, Eric Dickey, Emily, Jordan Schultz...* and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You are love, and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, especially Ellen Mack, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. 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.

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 Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offertory

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.

“Waterlife”

ELW 457

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.**

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

“O Sing to the Lord”

ELW 822

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

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.

Celebrating our 2026 Confirmands! This May 17, our confirmation class of 2026 will affirm their baptism at the 10:00 a.m. service as we celebrate their confirmations in faith! Join us to witness as Evan Ackerman, Anna Bond, Jillian Dewitz, and Jett Jenkins say YES back to the God who first said YES to them at the waters of baptism, and as they mark this milestone in their faith journey! You'll also be able to see a display of our confirmation class final projects for both first and second-year students, as well as the handprints and confirmation verses of our Class of 2026 Confirmands on our large canvas between the Gathering Space and the Fellowship Hall!

Sunday School Ending for the Year, Thank You to Our Teachers - our final Sunday of childhood Sunday School, for this year, will be May 17. As we wrap up another season of learning, growing, and wondering together, I want to take a moment to say thank you to the many volunteers who made this ministry possible week after week. Sunday School doesn't happen without people who are willing to show up, prepare lessons, welcome questions, and create space for children to explore their faith. Through stories, activities, conversations, and care, our teachers help our youngest members discover that they belong in the life of the church and in God's story. Thank you for the time, creativity, patience, and encouragement you share so generously with our children. Your presence matters more than you may ever fully see.

Vacation Bible School – Rainforest Falls!

Get ready for an exciting adventure this summer as we journey through *Rainforest Falls!* Kids are invited to join us for a fun-filled week of faith, games, music, and discovery.

We are offering two opportunities to participate:

- **June 1–5** at Hope UMC, 9:00–11:30 a.m.
- **June 22–26** at Providence Lutheran Church, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

All children are welcome, and we would love to have volunteers join us as well! If you're interested in helping, please contact Bryce at brycecyf@gmail.com or (567) 825-3265.

Come and be part of this meaningful and joy-filled experience!

Mother's Day Blessing

May God bless all mothers with strength, grace, and peace.

May their love be returned in joy, and their faith shine as a light for generations.

“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.”
— *Proverbs 31:28*

Happy Mother's Day! We invite the ladies of our congregation to enjoy a complimentary carnation! Blessings on your day!

**Summer Worship Hours begin
Sunday, May 24 @ 9:00 a.m.**



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.
Christian Ed	Monday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.
Concert Committee	Tuesday, May 12, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.
Music Director Taskforce Mtg	Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.
Worship and Music	Thursday, May 14, 10:00 a.m.
Confirmation Dinner	Thursday, May 15, 6:00 p.m.
Young Adult & Family Gathering	Saturday, May 16, 5:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Carol Wiemken
In Honor of Mothers, & their Mothers, & their
Mothers, etc.....! † ❤️ 🙏**



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!