

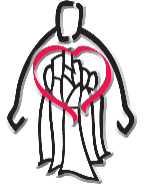


# Community of Christ Lutheran Church

First Sunday after Pentecost,

May 31, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Stephen C. Bond



## THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Holy, Holy, Holy” by Robert Buckley Farley

Pam Stover

## 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, whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, we **confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

**ELW 673**

**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.**

## The congregation will sing the refrain only

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

## The Pastor will sing the verses



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P** Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## **Childrens Sermon**

### **Anthem**

“Always is Always” Amanda Worthington, Solo  
Pastor Steve, Piano

## **THE READINGS**

### **The First Reading Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

<sup>11</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to

give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

## The Second Reading 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

<sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**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 28:16-20

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

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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

**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**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** Holy God, we are in awe of your creative work. Continue that work in your church, making us a new creation that proclaims your presence and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, nature reveals your power and glory. Protect water sources, vegetation, and wildlife as reminders of who you are. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Redeemer God, you call us to pray for those in authority. Guide our leaders to pursue the work of fostering peace and community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Sustaining God, you are mindful of your people in every circumstance. Heal those who are sick. Provide for all who hunger. Protect those in harm’s way. Comfort any experiencing hardship *especially* **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, Baby Elliot, David Atkinson, Maurice Atkinson, Karen Meyer, Rich Rison, Ginny Krueger, Kathryn Whitacre, Judy Mock, Nancy Atkins, Eric Dickey, Emily, Jordan Schultz, Pastor Ron Heinz, Todd Dutched, Carol Tomlin, Melissa Mueed, Mike... and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.****

**AM** Gracious God, we pray for the children of our church and community. Provide for their needs. Support their caregivers. Nurture their faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Loving God, we give thanks for those who have died and claimed their baptismal promises. Strengthen us to live as they did in communion with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**P** Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our 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** “God Whose Almighty Word” by Thomas R. Pearce

#### **Offering Prayer**

**AM** Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

**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

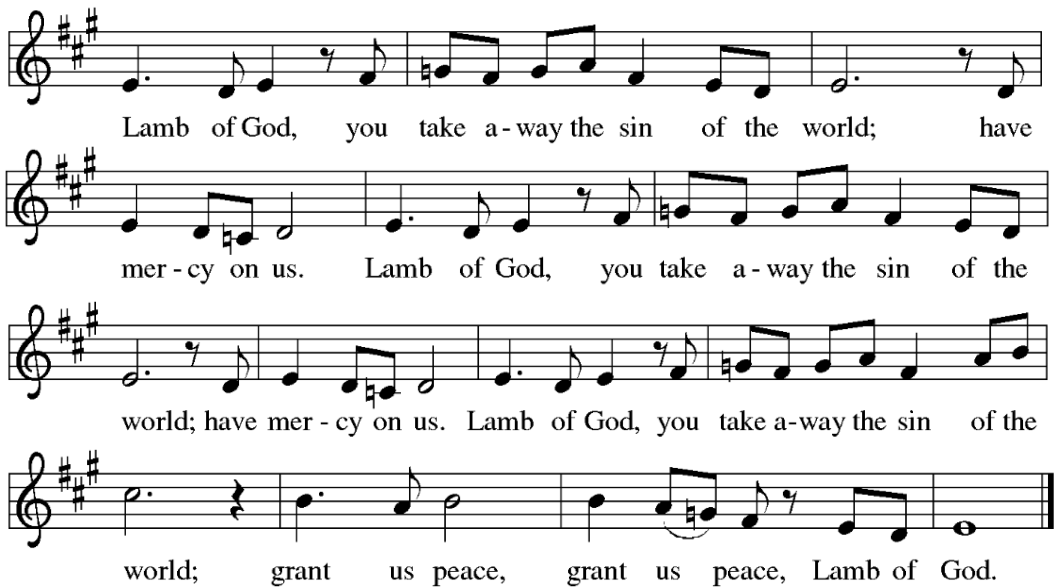
*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

“By Your Hand You Feed Your People ”

ELW 469

## Post Communion Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

**AM** Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE SENDING

*Milestones & Announcements: Honoring our 2026 High School Graduates*

### The Blessing

**P** Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✝ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!”

**ELW 413**

**Dismissal**

**AM** Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

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

**Postlude:**

Variations on “Holy, Holy, Holy” by Hal Hopson

## *“Making Jesus Known”*

**You're Invited!** Join us for worship this Summer every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.—either in person or via Facebook Live. We'd love to see you there, and don't forget to bring a friend! Interested in becoming a member? Just fill out your information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We'd be honored to welcome you into our church family!

**Summer Adult Forum - “Journey through the Old Testament” Starting June 21**  
We'll have several Sundays early in June with other special events coming up, but starting on June 21, we invite you to join us for our summer Adult Forum series, “Journey through the Old Testament.” Over these weeks, we'll have the chance to take an overview of the books and stories of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament, in the hopes of becoming more familiar with these books, understanding how to read them and the times and cultures they were first written in, and how they continue to speak to us as followers of Jesus today. Join us in the Bible study room on Sundays, starting June 21 at 10:15 for this series!

**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!

**Cherry Fest!** WE NEED YOU to get your walking shoes on! The 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

**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., and **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](mailto:brycecyf@gmail.com) or **(567) 825-3265**. Come and be part of this meaningful and joy-filled experience!

### **A New Round of Spiritual Practices Coming Weekly This Summer!**

In the summer of 2025, we offered the chance to explore a variety of *spiritual practices*—activities of different kinds that can deepen and enrich our faith and discipleship. Some of these are historic and long-standing in the sweep of church history, like the prayer labyrinth and the Daily Examen of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Others are more recent developments, like the musical style of sung prayer refrains from Taizé, France. And some were just plain fun and new angles on connecting faith with play and imagination, like LEGO building and improv. We hope you had the chance to participate in some of these events last summer, but we are even more hopeful that you'll join us for a new round of Spiritual Practices this coming summer, as we gather weekly once again for a series of ten **Wednesday** evenings from 6:30 p.m. -7:45 p.m. This summer, we are planning to introduce a variety of new practices, welcome some new faces and guest presenters, and dig deeper into several practices we could only scratch the surface of in 2025. Look for more details and a full slate of our scheduled practices and sign-up information coming soon, but for now, mark your calendars to join us on Wednesday evenings this summer for spiritual practices!

### **Sneak Preview: Summer Reading Club Returns Beginning June 10!**

Beginning on June 10 and running on Wednesdays this summer through August 12, we'll welcome kids of all ages from 9:30-10:00 a.m. every week for stories, songs, fun, and friends. Bring a friend or neighbor, and we'll gather in the church library (the long classroom where our youngest Sunday School class meets on Sunday mornings). But wait, there's more! You will also be able to find our bookshelf in the Gathering Space all summer, with a new collection of kid-friends' books as well as some of our favorites from last year, that you can borrow, read, and return. We're inviting you to read ten books over the course of the summer for a special prize at the

end of the summer! And if you are an adult who might be free on a Wednesday morning this summer and you would like to volunteer to be a guest reader of one of our stories, please reach out to Pastor Steve or Bryce and let us know—we'd be glad to welcome you to be a special guest on one or more of our Wednesday story times! See you this summer around a good book!

**Save the Date!** On June 20, from 9:00–11:30 a.m., youth from the Anthony Wayne area will gather in our parking lot for a car wash fundraiser. Youth are invited to come help out and stay afterward for pizza and fellowship. If you have a car, we'd love for you to stop by and have it cleaned while supporting our youth!

**Join us as we help Pastor Steve celebrate a Milestone! – June 7**

Please join us on Sunday, June 7, following our 9:00 a.m. worship service for lite refreshments and cake as we celebrate Pastor Steve's 20th Anniversary of Ordination. We give thanks for his years of faithful ministry, leadership, and service to his previous congregations and our congregation and community. We hope you'll stay and help us honor this special milestone!

**Farewell Sunday for Eric Dickey—June 14**

As we had to share with the congregation earlier in May, our music director Eric Dickey's health issues have led him to decide he can no longer continue as our music director or worship accompanist through his original planned last date of September 6, but he needs to step down right away. He is, however, still open to us having a chance to say farewell and to give thanks to God for his musical gifts among us, as well as to celebrate his time with us. So, we invite you to join us on Sunday, June 14, both in worship at our 9:00 a.m. service and afterward for a reception together, where we can offer our wishes of love and care and give thanks to God for Eric, as well as to ask God's blessing on both him and his wife, Sarah. Hope to see you with us then!

**Congratulations and Christ's Blessings to our  
2026 High School Graduates!**



As you take your next steps, may you go with open hearts and steady hope. May the lessons you've learned and the friendships you've made stay with you, offering strength and comfort. Wherever life leads, may you find joy in the journey, peace in the pauses, and purpose in each new day. You are celebrated, you are cherished, and you are ready.

## Fellowship Ice Cream Meet-Up

**Fellowship is getting together for an ice cream meet-up at  
Generals Ice Cream in Whitehouse**

**Sunday, May 31st, at 7:30 PM!**

**Come enjoy fellowship, conversation, and a sweet treat  
with friends.**



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ COC	Today, Sunday, May 31, 6:30 p.m.
VBS – Rainforest Falls! @ Hope UMC	June 1-5, 9:00 a.m. - noon
Care Givers Meeting	Monday, June 1, 6:30 p.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.
Outreach	Tuesday, June 2, 7:00 p.m.
Social Action	Wednesday, June 3, 10:00 a.m.
Worship & Music	Thursday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, June 4, 1:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Carol Heurman and  
children in Memory of Roger ❤️**

(Anthem Title)

“Always is Always”

Now we are gathered,  
Held like a breath, for an instant  
Until you lead us  
Rippling out, both near and distant.

Like dandelions  
Wind carries seeds to plant them  
As we are scattered  
Let your promise be our anthem:

“Always is always is always.  
Always is always is always.  
Deep in your bones,  
Know you’re never alone.  
Always I’ll be with you.”

Into a new day  
Out to the world that sees us  
Moved by your mercy  
We’ll bring the life of Jesus.

Here’s to beginnings  
You fashion out of endings  
We’ll trust your presence  
Comes along with your sending:

“Always is always is always.  
Always is always is always.  
Lean on these words  
Until everyone’s heard:  
Always I’ll be with you.”

Whatever happens  
We’ll go with Word and water  
Knowing for certain  
You call us sons and daughters.

We’ll be your welcome  
Offered to friend and stranger  
Echo your voice there  
Stronger than fear or danger:

“Always is always is always.  
Always is always is always.  
No matter the place  
You can’t outrun grace  
Always I’ll be with you.”



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!