



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost,  
June 21, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.  
Pastor Stephen C. Bond*



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Stephen Bond

**Musical Prelude**

David Saunders

**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**

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

**ELW 876**

**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** Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## Childrens Sermon

**Anthem** "You Cannot Lose My Love" (by Sara Groves) Pastor Steve

## THE READINGS

### The First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-13

<sup>7</sup> O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.  
<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
<sup>9</sup> If I say, "I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.  
"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him."  
<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

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

## The Second Reading Romans 6:1b-11

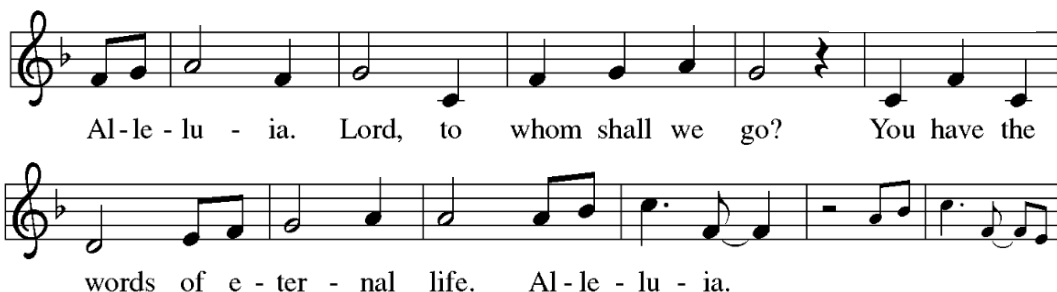
<sup>1b</sup> Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

<sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**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.



## The Holy Gospel Matthew 10:24-39

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

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup> “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

Sermon

“Good News for Losers (Like Us)”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781

### 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** Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disabilities. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering *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, Maurice Atkinson, Rich Rison, Eric Dickey & Sarah Magoun, Judy Mock, Chuck, Molly Wachtmann, Carol Heuerman, April Rouse, Carol Tomlin, Melissa Mueed...** and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises, especially Pastor Ray Gottschling. May we follow their example of faith and service. 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**

#### **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

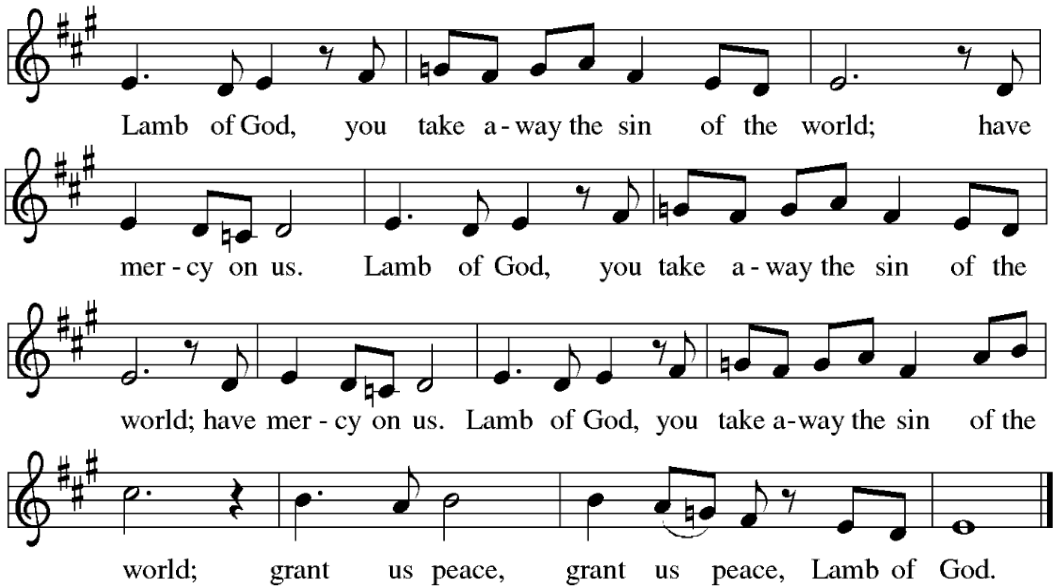
*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733

“What A Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

ELW 774

## 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*

*Farewell and God Speed, Ken and Shelly Hayes*

### **The Blessing**

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

### **Sending Hymn**

“How Firm a Foundation”

**ELW 796**

### **Dismissal**

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

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

### **Postlude**

## “*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” TODAY, 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 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!

### **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!

**Summer Reading Club:** Kids join us 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!

**Spring Cleaning is in the Air!** Did you know that Salem Lutheran Church offers a **Free Store** to the community? They accept donations and community members; before picking up their meal on Tuesdays, they can shop in the Free Store. So, as you are doing your Spring Cleaning, please consider what you could donate to Salem's Free Store. These are items that they are seeking: **Household items: \*\*\*gently used or like new\*\*\*** \*Shower curtains \*Window curtains \*Rugs \*Pots & pans \*Plates \*Bowls \*Cooking utensils \*Real spoons & forks (*for safety reasons - no knives*) \*Wall Décor \*Blankets/sheets/pillowcases \*Men/Women/Children clothing & shoes (all sizes) \*Men/Women/Children Coats & Hoodies \*Books for adults/children \*Book bags \*DVD movies. **Hygiene Items: \*\*\*New Items\*\*\*** \*Feminine pads/tampons \*Adult Depends \*Toilet paper \*Razors \*Deodorant \*Lotion \*Socks \*Band-Aids \*Tissues \*Dental floss \*Toothbrushes \*Toothpaste \*Small bottles of mouthwash \*Small first aid kits. **You can bring these donations to church on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, and place them in the library.** The donations will then be transported to Salem Lutheran.

**The Ladies will gather for lunch** on Friday, June 26, at 11:30 a.m. This month, we'll be meeting at Urban Pine Winery, 3415 Briarfield Blvd. Maumee, 43537. Please sign up 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.

**Average Joe Car Show** Break out the Turtle-Wax, the Outreach Committee is organizing the inaugural Community of Christ Average Joe's Car Show! Do you have a sweet ride or maybe it just looks GREAT from 10 feet away – either way, we'd LOVE for you to show it off to the community here in our parking lot on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. Food will be available for a free-will offering to support our youth's trip to the National Youth Gathering next year. Come out and purchase a lucky 50/50 ticket to help support our friends down at Salem. You may be asking yourself how can I get involved in this fun experience? The answer is simple – just reach out to a member of the Outreach Committee or look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk so we can ensure we have enough space. We look forward to seeing you – and your ride! Thank you – The Outreach Committee – Cammie Abraham, Dave Braun, Shelly Hayes, Tammy & Greg Myers, Cindy Smigelski, Kari Swagler, and Pastor Steve.

### **Father's Day Blessing**

On this special day, we gather to honor and celebrate the gift of fathers in our lives. May God bless all fathers with wisdom and strength as they guide their families in faith and love.

Happy Father's Day!

**We invite the men of our congregation to enjoy a complimentary gift! Blessings on your day!**

**Are you a Thrivent member?** If so, did you know you can help support our various committees and their projects by applying for a Thrivent Action Grant? Throughout the year, our committees often need funding to support activities, events, and special projects. Thrivent members are eligible to apply for Action Grants up to twice each year, and these grants can make a meaningful difference in helping our ministries and programs succeed. If you would be willing to support our committees by applying for one or two grants, please call or email Michelle in the office. She would be happy to gather your contact information and talk with you about how the process works. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our church community!

**Fellowship Meet-Up** Thursday, June 25th, 6 p.m. The Wheelhouse (at Oak Openings) is managed by Earnest Brew Works. Come join us for drinks, food, and fellowship. There will be a wood-fired pizza truck, or you can bring your own food. There are bike trails nearby. Fellowship Committee: Susan Nofzinger, Chad Ackerman, Rory Hartbarger, Pam Davis



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, June 21, 6:30 p.m.
Kids Summer Reading Program	Wednesday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.
Spiritual Practices	Wednesday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, June 25, 1:00 p.m.
The Wheelhouse (at Oak Openings)	Thursday, June 25, 6:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by Jeff & Tina Baden in celebration of their 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and Andrew & Sidney Smigelski's 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ❤️**



**Sunday mornings, @ 9:00 a.m.  
both in person and Facebook Live**

**Church Office Hours**  
**8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
(Monday through Friday)

**Please note.....**  
Hours may vary with  
vacations.  
Please call ahead ☺

**Office Notice**

Please note that Michelle will be out of the office June 29–July 2. The church office will remain open and staffed during this time.

**The church office will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.**



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!