



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
*Second Sunday after Pentecost,
June 7, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond*



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Praise to the Lord” by Johann Walther

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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 858

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.**

Prayer of the Day

P O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit, bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Hosea 5:15-6:6

¹⁵ I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.

In their distress they will beg my favor:

^{6:1} “Come, let us return to the LORD,
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

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

The Second Reading Romans 4:13-25

¹³ The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³ Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 9:9-13, 18-26

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

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then, suddenly, a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her, he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread through all of that district.

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

Sermon

"The Company Jesus Keeps"

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

"There's a Wideness In God's Mercy"

ELW 588

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 God of mercy, you call us to a life filled with acts of mercy. Ground us in following Christ, that we might extend the mercy we receive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of creation, all you have made is yours. Revive lands in need of healing and make us wise stewards of all you have given us to tend. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of the nations, you promise to deliver those who call on you. Bring an end to conflict, bigotry, and injustice in all their forms wherever they are found. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of comfort, you provide for those in need. Bring an end to addiction. Comfort people as they mourn. Provide tenderly for those in need *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, Maurice Atkinson, Rich Rison, Eric Dickey, Mike, Betty, Lori, Phillip, Cory, Damian, Megan & Kyle Morris...** and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of blessings, you send the Holy Spirit to provide varieties of gifts in the body of Christ. Accompany those who travel this summer, make our gatherings joyous, and grant us a spirit of hospitality and togetherness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM God of life, we give you thanks for saints whose lives revealed your faithfulness. May remembering their faithfulness strengthen our own. 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

“Praise to the Lord” by Wayne Wold

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.

“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”

ELW 470

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471

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.**

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 or 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: Honoring Pastor Steve! Happy 20th Anniversary of your Ordination!

The Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

“Will You Come and Follow Me ”

ELW 798

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

“What God Ordains is Always Good” by Johann Walther

“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 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.

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 Taize, 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 Returns Beginning June 10! Beginning this Wednesday, 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!

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 28th, 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 15th 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.

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!

A Note from Karen Jennings: Much thanks to our church family for all the nice cards and wishes on the passing of my husband, Tom. I am so grateful for so many expressions of love and caring given to me. Blessings to all! Karen Jennings



Join us as we celebrate Pastor Steve's milestone! Please join us TODAY, June 7, following our 9:00 a.m. worship service for light 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, our congregation, and our 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, has health issues that have led him to decide he can no longer continue as our music director or worship accompanist through his originally planned last date of September 6, and 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!



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.
Visitation Ministry	June 8, 10:30 a.m.
Concert Committee	Tuesday, June 9, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.
Kids Summer Reading	Wednesday, June 10, 9:30 a.m.
Spiritual Practices	Wednesday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, June 11, 1:00 p.m.



**Altar Flowers given by The Gebhart's in Celebration
of Jack Miller's 80th Birthday! ❤️ 🎉 🇺🇸**



**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 😊



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!