



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost,  
July 12, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.  
Pastor Stephen C. Bond*



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Stephen Bond

**Musical Prelude**

“Open now ye gates of glory” Manz

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**

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”  
VS 3 High Voices, VS 4 Low Voices

**ELW 533**

**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

The words *Kyrie eleison* are Greek for "Lord, Have Mercy"

*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 God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## **Childrens Sermon**

### **THE READINGS**

#### **The First Reading Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,

and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,

for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

#### **The Second Reading Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

<sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit

to God's law—indeed, it cannot,<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 13:1-9, 18-23**

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

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup> “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

**Sermon**

*“The Risky Business of God”*

*Pastor Steve Bond*

**Hymn**

*“As Rain from the Clouds”*

**ELW 508**

**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**

Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah’s vision, when all creation

rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns *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, Baby Elliott, Judy Mock, Ryan Dunn, Mike, Molly Wachtmann, Carol Heuerman, Allen, Ashley...** and all others whom we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**P** Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **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**

“All glory be to God on high” Zachau

## 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.

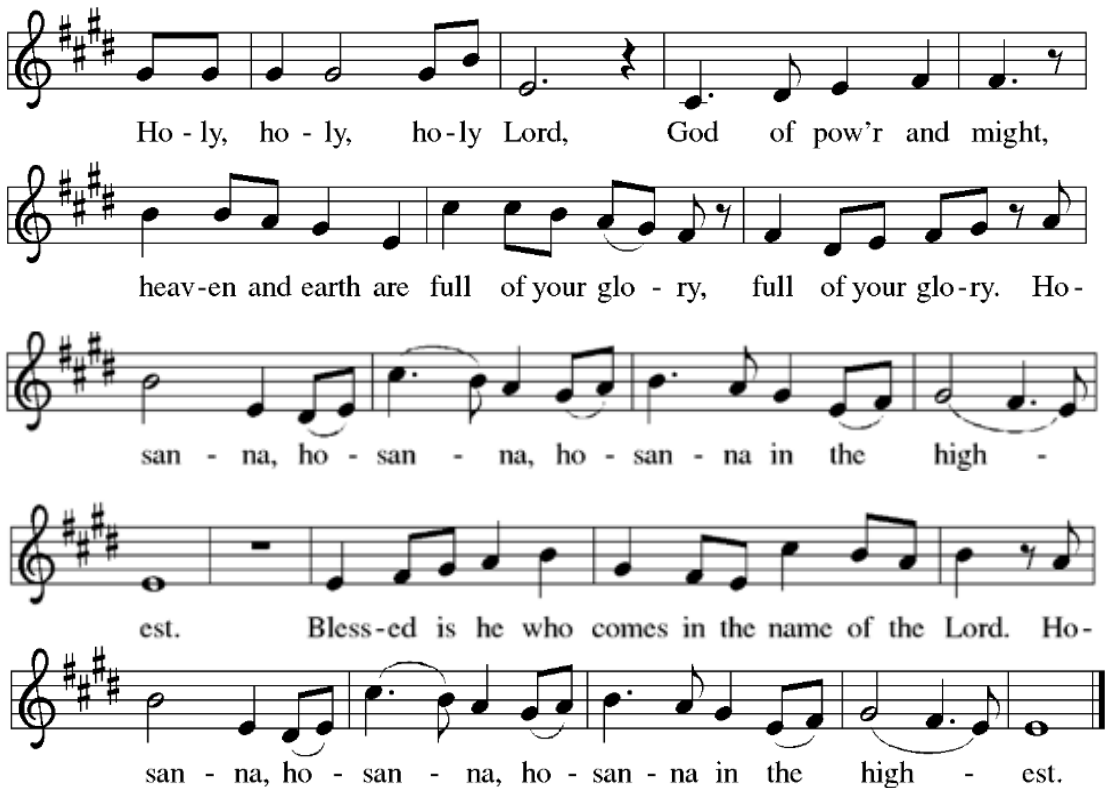
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**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

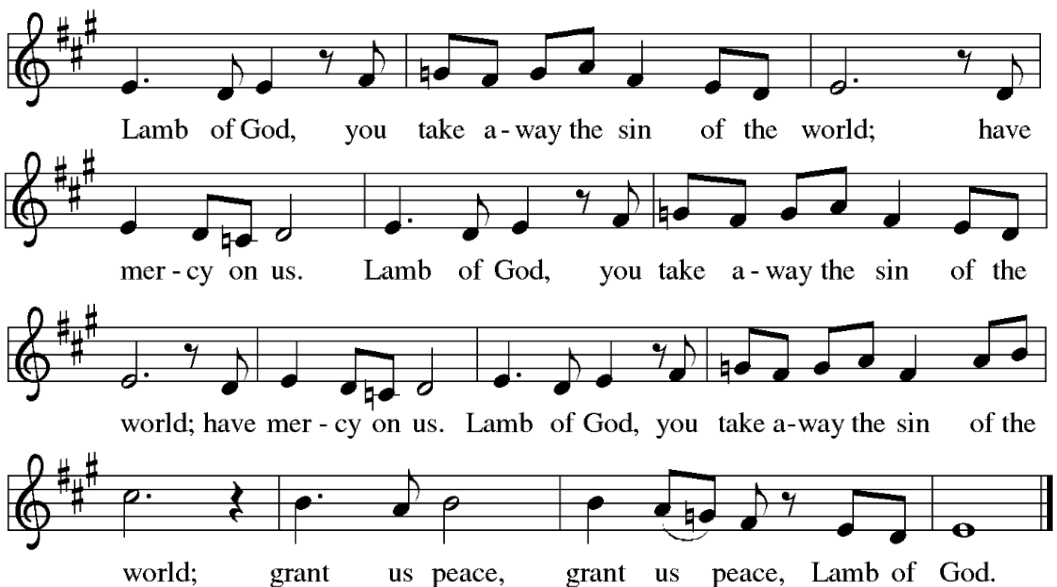
*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”  
(Sung Twice)

ELW 512

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679

## 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**

### **The Blessing**

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

### **Sending Hymn**

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

**ELW 550**

### **Dismissal**

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

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

### **Postlude**

“ Voluntary in G.” Handel

## ***“ 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”**

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!

### **The Shaping of Our Hearts—Spiritual Practice Series for Summer 2026**

All are welcome on Wednesday evening this July and into August as we gather weekly once again for a series of ten spiritual practices from 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. So far, we have been introduced to “Spiritual MacGyvering,” the art of new creation, breath prayer, labyrinth walking, and reverse Visio Divina, and we've got more great opportunities to learn new ways to connect with God in our daily lives and weekly routines. We'd invite you to sign up in advance, either at the kiosk or online through the Sign-Up Genius tab on our website ([www.commfchrist.org](http://www.commfchrist.org)), but even if you can't sign up ahead of time, we'd be glad to have you join us! Coming up in July, we'll feature archery as a spiritual practice, tangible prayer (like prayer squares, shawls, and other textiles), the daily Examen with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, and sand art in what we'll call “the spirituality of the ephemeral.” We hope you can try out some of these new practices this summer!

**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!

**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.

**The Ladies' lunch** in July will be at 5th Street Pub, 105 W 5th St, Perrysburg, OH. We will meet on July 24th @ 11:30 a.m. to enjoy food & fellowship. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. Question?? Please call Becky King @ 419-349-7319, and as always, ask a friend. See you in July!!

**“Better Together” Toledo Pride Sign-Up** Let's lace up those walking shoes to help love, unity, and inclusion shine brightly in our community. Community of Christ has been asked once again to join a multi-faith initiative and walk in support of the Toledo Pride parade on the morning and midday of Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Last year, more than 300 people from over 30 different local faith communities joined together, highlighting a message that we all Love Out Loud and we are Better Together. Think of this as a chance to say by our presence and our walking feet, “God's love is for you!” to people who might just be aching to hear that they are beloved. Even if that's all our presence can do for someone else, that might just be the starting point for the Spirit to move in amazing and gracious ways. Please consider joining the Outreach Committee and walking to promote inclusion for all in the world that God loves. A sign-up sheet for the walk and information on how to order this year's t-shirt will be located on the kiosk and in SignUp Genius on the church's website, and we'll share more details about walking times and carpooling for those who sign up as we get closer to the event in August.

**Helping Salem!** During the month of July and through the first week in August, until Sunday, August 9th, we will be accepting donations for Salem Lutheran of feminine hygiene products: tampons, sanitary pads, and urinary incontinence products. These items are dispensed with wise stewardship of a limited resource. Donations may be placed in the Salem Lutheran basket under the table in the gathering place. Thank you so much!

**Donna Tozer-Wipfli**, former longtime director of the Masterworks Chorale, is conducting a free choir concert on Wednesday, July 15 at 7:30 at Epworth United Methodist Church. This Choir for a Cause is being held to raise awareness and funds

for the cancer wellness and support non-profit agency, The Victory Center. Come join us for an evening of uplifting and joyful music!

**Treasurer Needed for 2027** We are seeking a new Treasurer to begin serving in 2027. If you are interested in this important ministry or would like more information, please contact the church office. Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts and talents in support of our congregation's mission.



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ CoC	Today, Sunday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.
Christian Ed	Monday, July 13, 6:30 a.m.
Kids Summer Reading	Wednesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m.
Spiritual Practices	Wednesday, July 15, 6:30 p.m.
Life Line Screening	Thursday, July 16, Fellowship Hall
Bible Study	Thursday, July 16, 1:00 p.m.
Stewardship	Thursday, July 16, 6:30 p.m.



**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 during vacations.  
Please call ahead ☺

**Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:**

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
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**LIFE LINE SCREENING**  
*The Power of Prevention*