



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Prelude in F” by J. S. Bach

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

“All Are Welcome”

ELW 641

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 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.

- 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,

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

Prayer of the Day

P God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

The Second Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,

³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:(10-20) 21-28

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

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have

mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Sermon

“The Watershed of Grace”

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

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

AM For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. *We especially pray for;* **Zach Atkins, Maurice Atkinson, Larry Battles, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Eric Dickey & Sarah Magoun, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Ron Hetherwick, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Hope Kimball, Judy Mock, Frank O'Konski, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Evelyn Reilly, Rich Rison, Sarah S., Phyllis Sturgeon, Vince Tavitian, Greg Urbanski, Evan Vogel, Noah Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike, Staci, Tom O, Damien, Phillip, Corey...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

“One Bread One Body” arr. Ron Schmaltz

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.

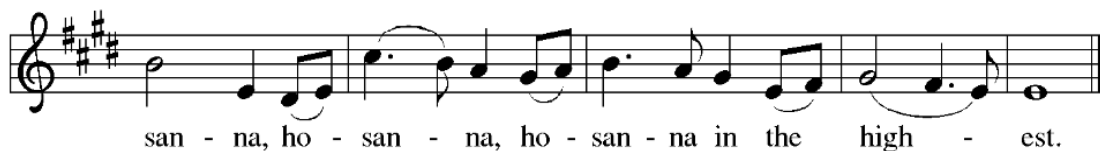
C We lift them to the Lord.

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 -



The Words of Institution

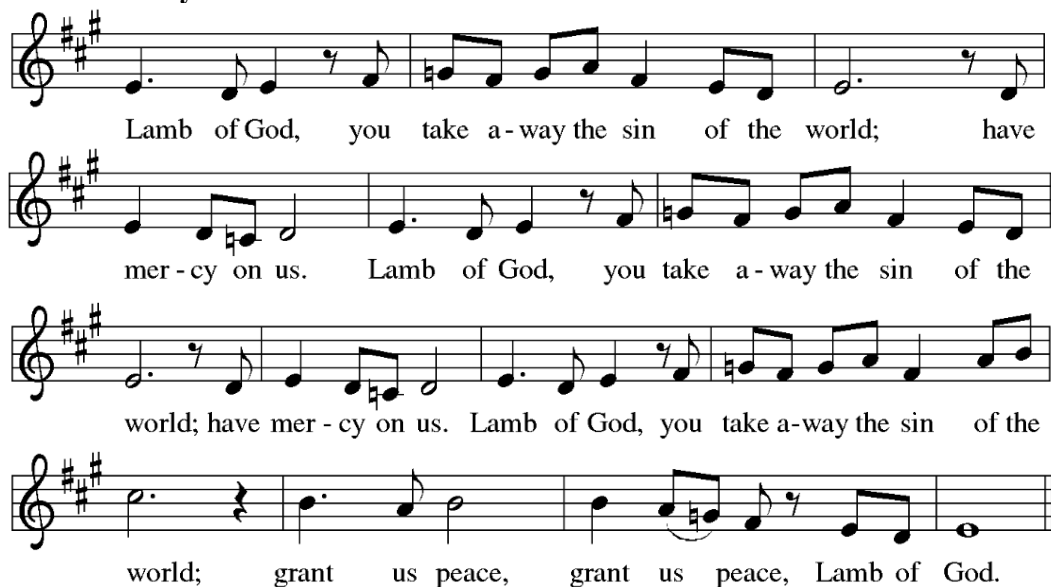
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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



“Healer of Our Every Ill”
“One Bread, One Body”

ELW 612
ELW 496

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

The Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

ELW 650

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

“Fugue in F” by J. S. Bach

“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!

Project Promise – Build Kits of Care through Lutheran World Relief. These kits allow students of all ages in third-world countries to attend school. Donations will be collected through September 13.

Items Needed for each bag:

- ❖ 4 – 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8” x 10 ½”; no loose-leaf paper
- ❖ 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches
- ❖ Pencil sharpener
- ❖ 1 pair of **BLUNT** scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ❖ 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- ❖ 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (**no gel ink**)

*****Please note: we have plenty of crayons and erasers, so those items are not needed, thank you!*****

The Ladies Lunch will be going to Barr's Public House on August 28th @ 11:30 a.m. The address is 3355 Briarfield Blvd. Maumee, OH. Please sign up on the kiosk so reservations can be made. Any questions?? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. As always, all ladies are invited & bring a friend!!

Outreach Offers “Found by Grace” T-Shirts Starting August 15 (at the First Inaugural Average Joe’s Car Show here at Community of Christ) and running through September 20, the Outreach Committee invites you to pre-order a new long-sleeve t-

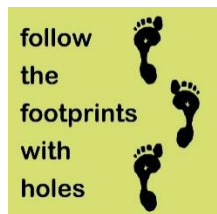
shirt design with an original logo on the front that reads “Found by grace” that corresponds to our year-long theme of being “Found Family” as church. The backside reads, “You are so loved. –God” and will tell anyone and everyone who walks behind you that they are loved by God, too! These shirts will be for \$20.00 (pre-sale in person on Sunday mornings before and after service, only; no online orders), and all proceeds will be going to help us support the AW Bridges Backpack program that assembles food for school students over the weekends during the school year when they don’t have access to food at home. This is a great witness for your faith and a way to support ministries that help neighbors right in our own backyard! And you’ll have your shirt in time for the chillier weather this fall, when we want to have long sleeve t-shirts! Get yours by ordering in the Gathering Space this August and early September!

New Children's Ministry – Save the Date! We're excited to launch a brand-new monthly ministry for the children of our congregation this fall! Beginning in **September**, we'll gather on the **second Saturday of each month** (September–December) from **5:00–6:30 p.m.** for an evening of food, fun, faith, and fellowship. We'll begin by sharing a meal together as families. After dinner, while our young adults gather for fellowship and discipleship, children will enjoy their own engaging program featuring lively songs, creative crafts, exciting games, interactive activities, and a Bible message that helps them grow in God's love and discover the wonder of God's creation. Mark your calendars now—we can't wait to welcome your family for this new opportunity to grow together in faith and community! More details and registration information will be available soon.

Blessing of the Backpacks—TODAY! Sunday, August 16, in Worship! As we get ready for the start of a new school year, we invite you to join us for the “Blessing of the Backpacks” in worship on Sunday, August 16. As we have done in recent years, we’ll take a moment during the children’s sermon to dedicate a new school year to God's care and ask for God's blessing on our students, teachers, staff, & administrators. Students (and teachers!) are invited to bring their backpacks to church at our 9:00 a.m. service, where we’ll pray together for God’s blessing and get a special gift you can put on your backpack, bookbag, or briefcase to remember God’s presence with you throughout the school year!

Greetings ladies!! September is fast approaching and that means the Tuesday morning Bible study will be starting. Mark your calendars for Tuesday September 15th @ 8:30am. We will be using a new author, Angie Smith, and doing her study "Seamless Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story". Please order the workbook. There will be 7 weeks of study ending on October 27th. We will view a

short video have a discussion time and daily homework. This is a different topic and will be exciting to view the Bible as a whole. Please sign up on the kiosk. Any questions? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. All ladies of the church are invited and ask a friend!! See you in September!!



New Stickers Remind Us to “Follow the Footprints with Holes”

We have a new original design of a sticker you can use to share your faith AND support ministries like our friends at Salem in Toledo, all at once. These new three-inch square stickers say, “Follow the footprints with holes”—in other words, follow the

risen Jesus, who still has the nail marks on his hands and feet but is alive and leading us out into the world. This could spark a conversation with a friend or coworker who sees it on your travel mug, car bumper, or laptop. Or it could be a daily reminder to you that we walk differently in the world, not going after the path of celebrity, wealth, fame, or power, but following Jesus’ way of love and service. Get yours starting August 15 at our Average Joe Car Show, and throughout August as long as supplies last! We invite a \$5.00 donation, and all proceeds will go to help support the ministry of Salem Lutheran Church as they feed neighbors every week on Tuesdays!



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, August 16, 7:00 p.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, August 18, 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, August 20, 1:00 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 ☺



**Altar Flowers given by Carol Wiemken in appreciation of
our summer prairie flowers! † ❤️ 🙏**