

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Jerusalem” by Hubert Parry

Natalie Downs

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

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

ELW 645

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

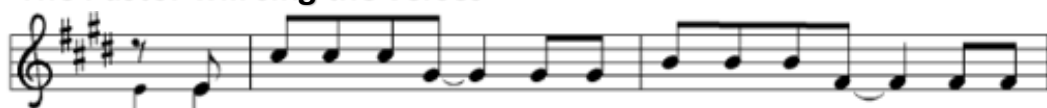


Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



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

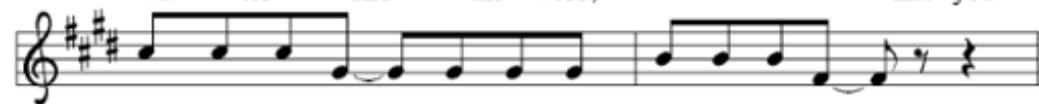
The Pastor will sing the verses



- 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

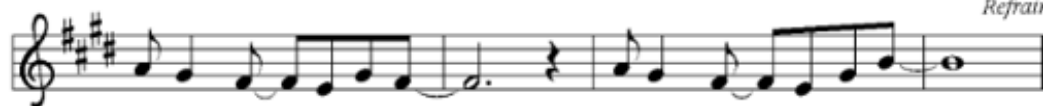


u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



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 O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,

but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.
L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20

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

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Sermon

“A Solid Bet”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

ELW 654

Affirmation of Baptism--Reception of New Members

P Carol, Stephen, and Joyce, we rejoice to receive you, members already of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

Let us pray:

Merciful God, we thank you for our sisters and brother, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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**

P You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for peace and justice in all the earth? If so, I ask you to respond,

"I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

R *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ, to receive this new member of our church family as your own brother and as God's beloved, to rejoice with him in joy, and to weep with him in sorrows as part of the one body of Christ, and to encourage this new member in living out the covenant God has made with him in baptism?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in us all the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **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 God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. . Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day; **Maurice Atkinson, Larry Battles, Jim Bell, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Ron Hetherwick, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Hope Kimball, Sarah Magoun, 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...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise; especially Eric Dickey. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. 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 “Rainbow Connection” by Paul Williams and Kenneth A. Ascher

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.**

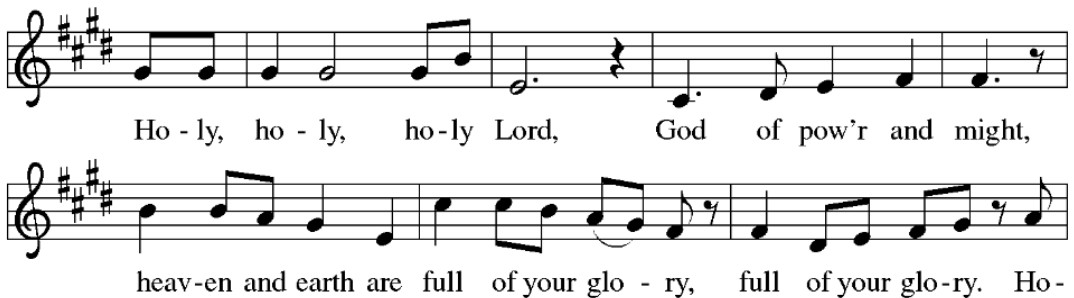
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

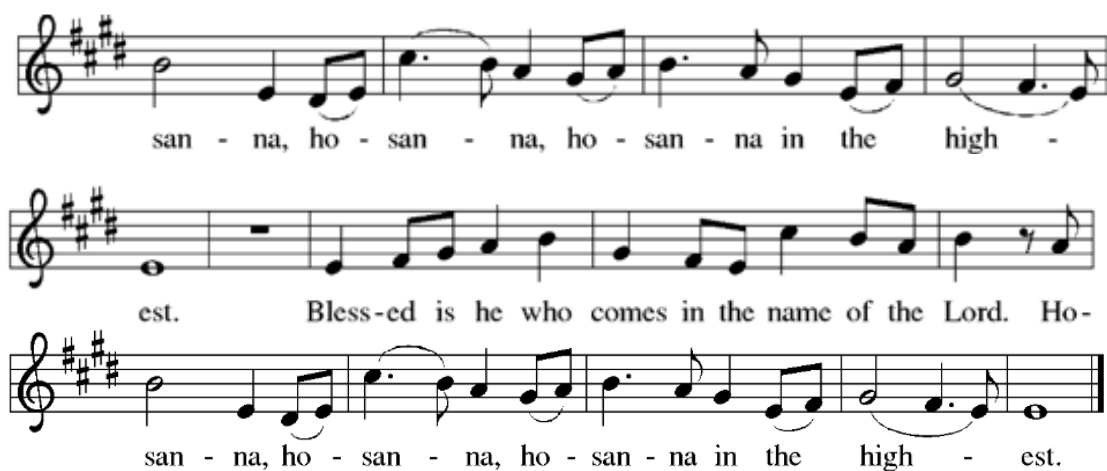
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 -



The Words of Institution

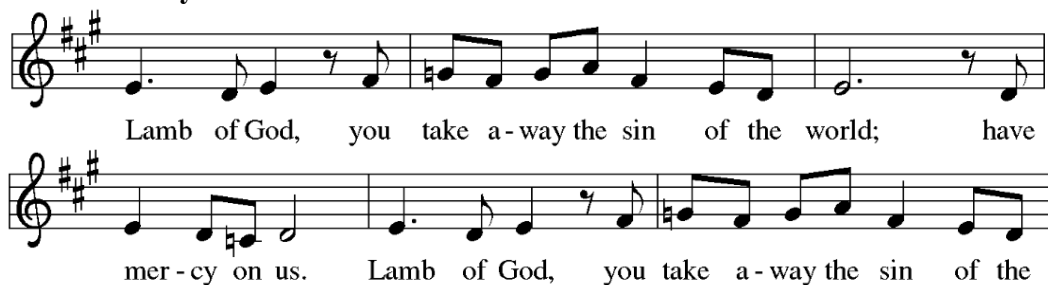
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

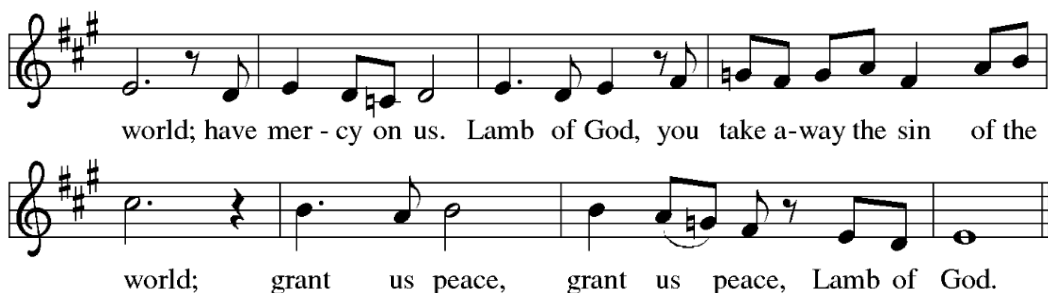
The Lord's Prayer

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"





“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”
 “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”

ELW 623
ELW 597

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

“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

ELW 545

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

“How Firm a Foundation - arr.” by Victor Labensky

“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 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**)

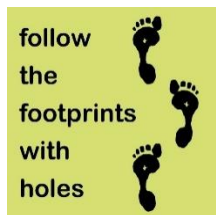
*****Please note: we have plenty of crayons and erasers, so those items are not needed, thank you!*****

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 The Outreach Committee invites you to preorder 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 Gathering Space! We will accept preorders through **Sunday, September 20th**.

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.

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 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!

Come From Away is an uplifting musical based on the remarkable true story of what happened when 38 planes were diverted to the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, following the September 11, 2001, attacks. Nearly 7,000 stranded passengers from around the world were welcomed by local residents who opened their homes, schools, churches, and hearts to complete strangers. Amid fear and uncertainty, unexpected friendships formed and acts of extraordinary kindness brought people together. Filled with warmth, humor, and hope, *Come From Away* is a moving reminder of the power of hospitality, compassion, and our shared humanity. It runs from September 11th - September 20th. Fri 9/11th 7:30, Sat 9/12 2:30, Sat 9/12 7:30, Sun 9/13 2:30, Thur. 9/17 7:30, Fri 9/18 7:30, Sat 9/19 2:30, Sat 9/19 7:30, Sun 9/20 2:30. ***There are discounted group tickets available, if there's a day that works for most, maybe group tix could work. Please sign up at the kiosk*** or you can purchase tickets at <https://croswell.org/> or <https://croswell.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/events/a0SUI000002nLoX2AU>

If you have any questions, please contact Chad Ackerman at 419-350-4879

Funeral Service Announcement With heartfelt sadness, we share the news of the passing of Eric Dickey. We invite friends, and members of our church community to join us as we gather to remember Eric's life. The Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, August 29 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Downtown Toledo with a musical prelude beginning at 10:30 a.m. May we come together in love and prayer as we remember Eric and surround his family with our care and support.



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ COC	Today, Sunday, August 23, 7:00 p.m.
ELCA National Youth Gathering Information Meeting	Today, Sunday, August 23, 1:00 p.m.
Christian Education	Monday, August 24, 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, August 25, 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 Jim & Cheryl Fischer. With
thanks for our 58th Wedding Anniversary! † ❤️ 🙏**



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!