

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
August 30, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond*



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Pavane” by R. Elmore

David Saunders

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21

- ¹¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
- ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
- ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.
- ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
- ²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,

but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

The Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28

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

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

Sermon

“Losing It All... For Good”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW 798

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 the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit especially; **Maurice Atkinson, Jim Bell, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Ron Hetherwick, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Judy Mock, Frank O'Konski, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Evelyn Reilly, Rich Rison, Amanda Roth, Phyllis Sturgeon, Vince Tavitian, Greg Urbanski, Evan Vogel, Noah Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Connie Weaver, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike, Staci, Tom O, Julie Zalowski...** and all others whom we remember in silence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

AM For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. 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

“Aria” by F. Peeters

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.

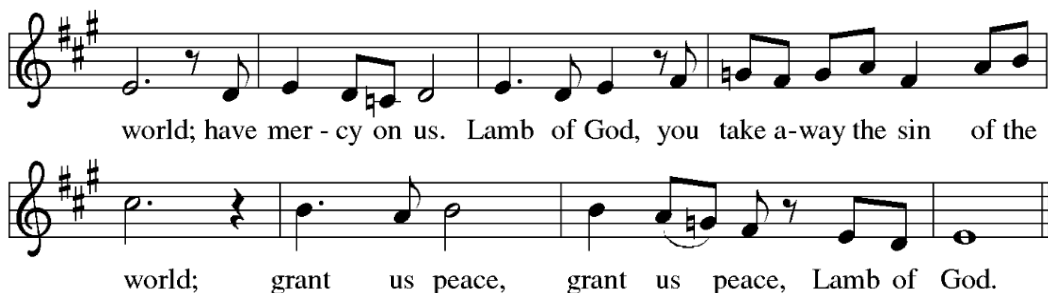
The Lord's Prayer

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"





“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”
 “For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

ELW 808
ELW 494

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

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

ELW 551

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude:

“March” by L. Lefebure-Wely

“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, 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 Still Needed for each bag:

- ❖ **4 – 70-sheet notebooks** of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8” x 10 ½”; no loose-leaf paper
- ❖ **Pencil sharpener**
- ❖ **1 pair of BLUNT scissors** (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

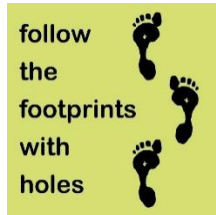
The Ladies Lunch will be going to Barr's Public House on August 28th @ 11:30 a.m. The address is 3355 Briarfield Blvd. Maumee, OH. Please sign up on the kiosk so reservations can be made. Any questions?? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. As always, all ladies are invited & bring a friend!!

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

Confirmation Classes Resume September 13 Our new year of Confirmation Classes will kick off on Sunday, September 13 (the same day as Blue Jean Sunday), and once again we are looking ahead to a great year in renewed partnership with neighbors at Zion Lutheran in Waterville! This year, our sixth and seventh grade students will be exploring the essentials of the faith, like the Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and what we believe about baptism and Holy Communion,

as well as how we live our lives as disciples of Jesus, all with the guidance and insight of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. This year will be a great experience for our young people to grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ, while learning to think theologically and live as witnesses! Our first confirmation class session will be September 13 at 12:30pm at Community of Christ, with the rest of the year's classes rotating location between Zion and Community of Christ. Stay tuned for more news and moments from our year in faith together!

Youth Rally Day We're kicking off another year of youth ministry, and we want to start with some fun! On **September 13**, Rooted will gather during our regular evening meeting time for our Youth Rally Day. We'll play games, enjoy some snacks (and hopefully a snow cone or ice cream truck!), and celebrate all that's ahead for our youth this year. This year, we're especially excited to build new energy around both **Rooted and our Sunday School opportunities for youth**. Our hope is to create spaces where our young people can build friendships, grow in faith, ask questions, and have a lot of fun along the way. If you have a junior high or high school student, we hope they'll come be part of what we're building this year. We're excited to see what God has in store!

It is with great excitement that the Music Director Search Committee announces that our first choice candidate has accepted our offer to be the next Music Director at Community of Christ. Mariana Steffan comes to us with 25 years of experience as a Music Director at an ELCA Lutheran church and is an elementary music teacher. Her musical talent, wide range of experience and engaging and warm personality leads us to believe that our church will be in good hands under Mariana's music leadership. She is eager to begin bell and choir rehearsals in mid-September and will start leading services at the organ and piano on September 20th.

Vocal Choir and Bell Choir Resume for Fall As we prepare to welcome Mariana Steffan to Community of Christ, we are also excited to see our vocal and bell choirs resume for the fall with the help and leadership of our new music director, Mariana. She is already looking at music and working on setting anthems and special music for the season ahead, and we would love you to join and add your voice or your bell-ringing hands! As in the past, vocal choir will meet on Wednesdays at 7:00pm starting September 16, and bells will begin the following evening at 7:00pm on Thursday, September 17. You can sign-up to help us know you are planning to join at the sign-ups on the kiosk, you can let the church office know by phone or email. We are excited about a new chapter in our music ministry here at Community of Christ, and we would love you to join us making a joyful noise!

Book Club News

Recruiting new members! We'd love to have some of the men participate. Fred Shuman joined us in June, and he was a delightful addition to the group.

Save these dates for the 26-27 Book Club. This way, you will have a reminder if something comes up that you have the possibility of other plans. In the September Newsletter, I will give an annotated list of the books for the year—we'll solve some mysteries, read something by favorite authors, read for 250, and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald!

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, from 1:00-2:15ish.

- ❖ September 15, October 20, November 17
- ❖ December 15, January 19, February 16
- ❖ March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15

Questions? E-mail or text me! Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444;

kathrynwhitacre13@gmail.com

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

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 at 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!!



**Altar Flowers given by Rich & Marilyn Pratt in
honor of their 62nd Anniversary! † ❤️ 🙏**



Blood Drive **Community of Christ Lutheran Church**

Community Center
 6517 Finzel
 Whitehouse, OH 43571

Friday, September 4, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code:
 COMMUNITYCHRIST or call
 1-800 RED CROSS.



The American Red Cross and Hello Kitty are releasing
 exclusive NEW merch! Come give blood Sept. 1-20 for a
 super-cute Red Cross x Hello Kitty collectible item,
 while supplies last!



1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, August 30, 7:00 p.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, September 1, 10:00 a.m.
Visitation Ministry	Tuesday, September 1, 10:30 a.m.
Outreach	Tuesday, September 1, 7:00 p.m.
Social Action	Wednesday, September 2, 10:00 a.m.
Worship & Music	Thursday, September 3, 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, September 3, 1:00 p.m.
Blood Drive	Friday, September 4, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 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 ☺



**Join us for our last summer 9:00 a.m. service outdoors on Blue Jean
Sunday, September 13th, and don't forget your lawn chair!**



Worship Schedule Update

Beginning **Sunday, September 20**, we will return to **two worship services each week: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m.**

