

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude “The Church’s One Foundation” S. Wesley Arr. by L. Topolski
Jonathon Siebenaler, piano

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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“My Lord of Light”

ELW 832

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 Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

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

The Second Reading Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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





The Holy Gospel Matthew 21:33-46

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

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Sermon

“The Lengths God Will Go To”

Pastor Steve Bond

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

AM God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. *We pray especially for; Maurice Atkinson, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Larry Greer, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Hannah McCord, Frank O'Konski, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Evelyn Reilly, Rich Rison, Amanda Roth, Phyllis Sturgeon, Vince Tavitian, Evan Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike, Staci, LeeAnn...* and all others whom we remember in silence. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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.

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

Offering Prayer

AM God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

****Eucharistic Prayer Continues**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Institution

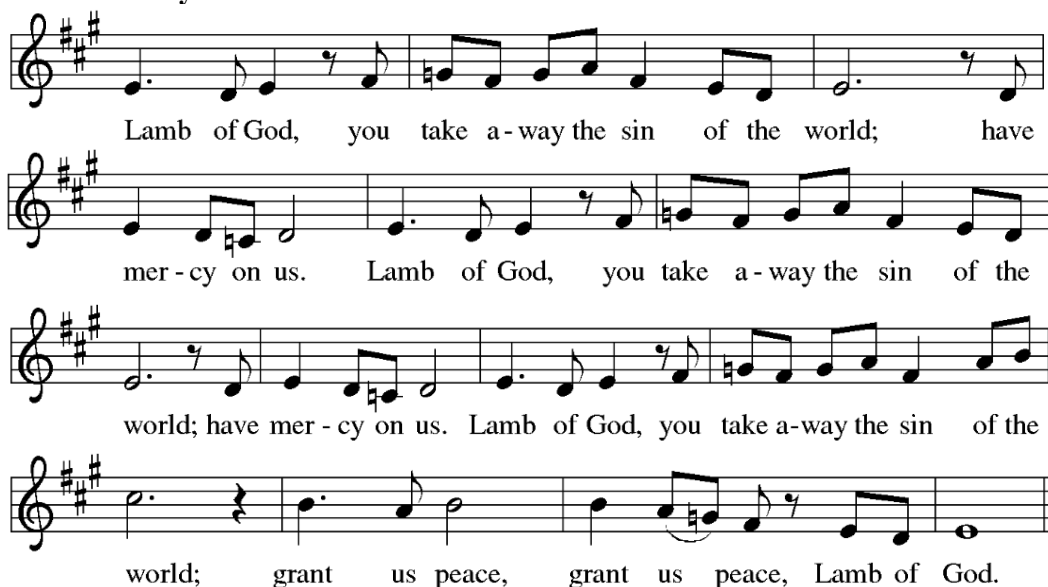
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **C** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”



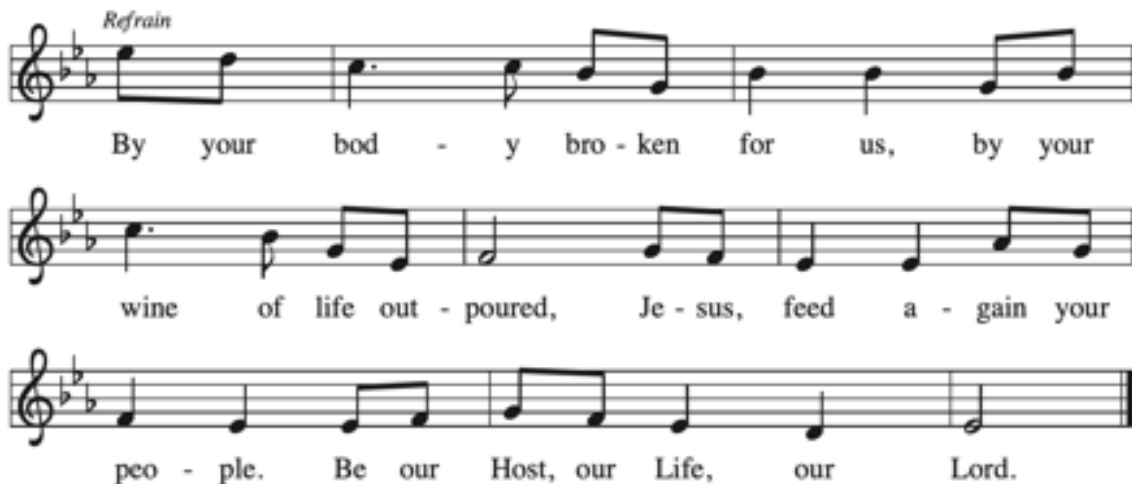
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken ”

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions
heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: “I am with you; do not fear!”
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are *sick or homebound*. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements

The Blessing

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

ELW 835

Dismissal

AM Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

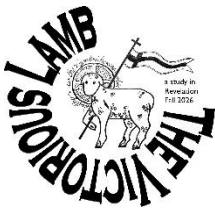
AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

“Making Jesus Known”

You're Invited! Join us for worship each Sunday at our two services, one at 8:00am and one at 10:00—either in person or via Facebook Live at 10:00am. 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!



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ CoC	Today, Sunday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.
Visitation Ministry	Monday, October 5, 10:30 a.m.
NYG Meeting	Monday, October 5, 6:30 p.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, October 6, 10:00 a.m.
Outreach	Tuesday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.
Social Action	Wednesday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.
Worship & Music	Wednesday, October 7, 6:00 p.m.
Vocal Choir	Wednesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, October 8, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.
Cookie Packing	Friday, October 9, 9:00 a.m.
FaithLab Gathering	Saturday, October 10, 5:00 p.m.



The Victorious Lamb: Thursday Bible Study Explores the Book of Revelation The last book of the Bible can feel like it should come with a warning. What we know as “Revelation” is a complicated, multi-layered, highly symbolic, and sometimes encoded book that defies our modern categories and sensibilities. It’s part resistance literature, part call to faithful discipleship, part hopeful vision, and part musical (really!). For many people, the book of Revelation seems daunting to try to read, because it can be hard to understand. Others find themselves compelled to explore because its imagery is so startling and outlandish. And still others throw their hands up after getting just a little way into the book, because it is unlike anything

they've read before, including the rest of the Bible! But despite all the challenges, Revelation really is a powerful and beautiful book to read, and it really does speak a clear word of hope in God's accomplished victory over evil and death through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. But to see how this book works, and to understand how that message is being communicated, it can help to read together with others. So, we invite you to a new series in our Thursday Bible Study, opening the Book of Revelation. We'll gather at 1:00pm every week in the Bible Study/Council room to explore this book, discuss your questions, and uncover the mysteries waiting to be revealed in the book of Revelation. Remember, too, that we'll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media (see the church Facebook page or YouTube links) 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! See you this September!

Adult Forum Series - Asks "What Is Salvation?" Every Sunday, we name Jesus as "Savior and Lord" in worship. Bumper stickers and billboards declare that "Jesus saves!" And we teach our confirmation students in catechism classes that we are "saved by grace through faith, apart from works of the law." All those sounds pretty familiar—maybe we just assume everybody already knows what all of it means. But what exactly is this thing we call salvation? How do different voices throughout the Bible use the language of "saving," and how does that picture get filled in with different images, perspectives, and meanings over the whole story of Scripture? What does it mean to be "saved"—or at least, what do we as (Lutheran) Christians think we are saying when we talk about being saved? What does the Bible say about how to be saved and who is saved? Once we start asking those kinds of questions, we realize that there is a lot more to the idea of "salvation"—and the Gospel's Good News that Jesus is the savior—than we first realized. It's something that seems fundamental to the Christian faith, but it's clearly a much deeper and richer notion that can fit on a bumper sticker or a billboard. Join us between services at about 9:00am for our Adult Forum, meeting in the Bible Study/Council room, as we explore all of this. In the course of these weeks, we'll get a better understanding of the Bible, a solid grounding in our hope in Christ, and maybe even a clearer sense of what we are called to share with other people as Good News! There's a place for you around the table—join us this fall!

Ladies' Bible Study *Tuesday October 13th* @ 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 November 24th. 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 October!!

Offering Our Time, Talent, and Treasure for 2027 Once again, this October, we are inviting everyone at Community of Christ to prayerfully consider how YOU will use your time, *talent*, and treasure—all gifts from God—in the year ahead, with our Time and Talent forms, and our invitations to Financial Commitment for the year 2027! You’ve already been given incredible gifts by God: the hours in each day, the abilities and interests that make us unique, and the resources we live on. Those are already in your hands, like a present waiting to be unwrapped and taken out of the box. This September, your household should have received new Time and Talent forms and Invitation to Financial Commitment forms for 2026-2027—if you need a new one, we’ve got extras in the gathering space at church! We ask you to complete those and return them to the church by **October 18**, so that we can get new volunteers connected with the ways they are being led to serve, and so that we can make our proposed 2027 budget grounded in realistic expectations of our planned giving. This year you’ll see that we are inviting all in our congregation to consider prayerfully supporting our general operating fund (*which pays for things like the light bill, office staff, and resources for ministry programming*) and our building fund (*which helps pay down the building loan for our most recent addition that includes the sanctuary, gathering space, and offices*), and also our organ maintenance fund, which will help us prepare for some significant repairs and maintenance that our organ will need in the near future. Now, maybe you’re wondering, “How do my gifts and talents fit in our church family, and where do we need volunteers for here at Community of Christ?” well, good news there, too! At our October 17-18 Festival of Talents weekend, we’ll have displays representing each of the areas of ministry in our congregation so you can learn more about what we do and how you can be a part of it. Think of it like a career fair or college expo but for serving God and God’s people—check out the displays for each ministry at Community of Christ and let that help guide where you might serve in the year ahead! It’s all about opening up the gifts God has already given us! And on Sunday, October 18, we’ll gather up our commitments of time, talent, and treasure and dedicate them to God for the year ahead in worship. As a special element of worship that day, our shared Youth Group, *Rooted*, will take the lead in many worship roles on that Sunday at the 10:00am service! We hope you’ll consider how you can be a part of God’s work in this place in the year ahead.

Festival of Talents! We need YOU—or better yet, we want to celebrate and honor *your* talents and abilities together with our whole church family! As part of our Third Annual Festival of Talents, we are once again inviting YOU to share your talents and celebrate the talents of others! On the weekend of **October 17-18**, we want to celebrate the many kinds of talents in our church family from people of all ages, from kids to great-great-grandparents, and everybody in between! That will include an evening program on **Saturday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.** where we can perform, display, and show talents of any kind. Do you have a musical talent? Bring a song to sing, a piece to play, or share an ensemble with some other folks from Community of Christ! Are you a poet? Would you share a poem you have written? Are you exploring drama as a hobby or class at school? You could share a performance of a monologue, poem, or scene! Would you share a piece of artwork you've made, or a quilt or afghan you've sewn or knitted? Are there handcrafts or wood projects you've built, or skills you can showcase? We want to share them all—whether performed like in a talent show or displayed in our fellowship hall and gathering space like a gallery—all of it will be a part of this special weekend! Sign up at the kiosk and let us know about what you'd like to share as YOUR talent! We'll also be using that weekend to let our congregational committees have displays and tables to share more of what they do, and how *you* might want to be a part of their ministry. Want to find out more about what the Toolbox ministry does? Interested in learning more about Social Ministry or Fellowship? This will be a chance to hear, see, and learn more, too. All of this will make for a great weekend between our Saturday program on October 17 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday worship on October 18, and we hope you can plan to be with us for all of it to share in the excitement and to celebrate our various talents and gifts from God!

Trick or treat, smell the sweets, let's pass out candy for kids to eat! Do you enjoy bringing a smile to the cute little ghouls, goblins, princesses and Bluey characters? Come help the Outreach committee pass out Halloween treats this year! We have 2 local opportunities this month – Thursday, October 29th from 5-7 p.m. in downtown Waterville for Boo-To-Do and then on Saturday, October 31st from 5-6:30 p.m. in downtown Whitehouse. We'll provide the candy; you just need to bring your smile and hands for passing out the treats. Costumes are optional but highly encouraged! The location of our table will be announced closer to the event.

Rescheduled for October: “Having Hard Conversations” (Oct. 24 at 9:30 a.m.)
Whether it's tackling topics you have been avoiding with family members, striking up a discussion with someone you know you disagree with politically, or working up the courage to reconcile with someone from whom you have been estranged, we all have

situations in our lives when we have to have hard conversations. Emotions can run high, we can get nervous, and sometimes we don't know what to say--so we don't say anything. As part of its fall educational focus, the Visitation Ministry invites you to a one-day workshop here at Community of Christ on **Saturday, October 24 from 9:30-11:30a.m.** for an introduction on how we face these situations rather than avoiding or aggravating them. Sign up at the kiosk to let us know if you would like to join us for an important and valuable workshop led by Pastor Steve.

Ladies Lunch! Friday, October 24 • 11:30 a.m. Beer Barrel Pizza & Grill – Fallen Timbers. All ladies of the church are welcome! Bring a friend and enjoy some good food and fellowship. Please sign up at the kiosk so we can make reservations. Questions? Contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.



**Altar Flowers given by Neil & Susan Raymond in celebration of
Graham's 1st Birthday!** 🎂 † ❤️ 🙏

