

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Prayer For Peace” by P. Taylor

Mariana Steffan

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

“Lord of Light”

ELW 688

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 Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

The Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but

to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So, they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to

them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Sermon

“The Divine Economy”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“God's Work, Our Hand”

ACS 1000



1	God's	work,	our	hands:	work - ing	to -	geth -	er,
2	God's	work,	our	feet:	trav - 'ling	to -	geth -	er,
3	God's	work,	our	voice:	sing - ing	to -	geth -	er,
4	God	is	at	work	in and	a -	round	us:



build - ing	a	fu - ture,	re -	pair - ing	the	world,
fol - low - ing	Je -	sus	to	plac - es	un -	known,
prais - ing,	pro -	claim - ing	to	all	who	will
seed - lings	are	sprout - ing	and	bread's	on	the
						rise!



rais - ing	up	homes,	plant - ing	new	gar - dens,
walk - ing	as	friends,	march - ing	for	free - dom,
pray - ing	for	peace,	shout - ing	for	jus - tice,
Washed and	set	free,	hum - bled	and	hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

AM Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. *We pray especially for; Maurice Atkinson, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ally Dobbins, Isla Dorton Ryan Dunn, Michael Ellerbrock, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Larry Greer, 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, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike, Staci, Hannah & Sadie, Maddie & Baby, ...* and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. 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

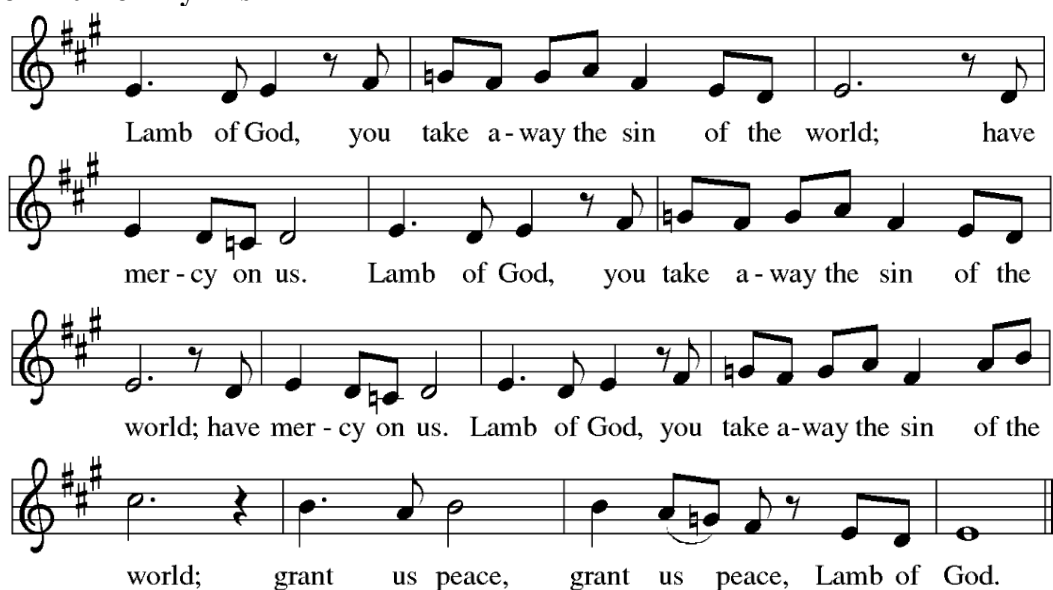
you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

ELW 659

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.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements: Introduction of our Sunday School Teachers!

The Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

ELW 669

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, September 20, 7:00 p.m.
Vocal Choir	Wednesday, September 23, 7:00pm
Bible Study	Thursday, September 24, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, September 24, 7:00pm
VM “Having Hard Conversations” Workshop	Saturday, September 26, 9:30 – 11:30 a.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. So, join us starting **TODAY, September 20** between services at about 9:00am for a new series in 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!

It's NOT too late! Add YOUR Contribution to our Mosaic Mural! Today and next Sunday, the Stewardship Committee invites you to help in creating a new piece of sanctuary artwork that will symbolize how each of us brings different gifts and passions to serve Christ and the people around us. We have a table set up in the Gathering Space at which you can take a square and add a design that represents your God-given talents, loves, abilities, or skills, and how you might offer them to God. Then we'll take all of them and put them together into a new mural/banner that will go up in the sanctuary later this fall as we prepare to dedicate our time, talent, and treasure back to God's service in the year ahead! We hope you'll add your own

piece to our creation as one more way of saying “YES!” to what God is up to here at Community of Christ!

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 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 October!!

Visitation Ministry Educational Focus for Fall 2026: “Having Hard Conversations” 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, Sept. 26 from 9:30-11:30am 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.

Join Our Stewardship Committee! The Stewardship Committee is on the lookout for new members! This dynamic team helps the congregation by promoting and encouraging joyful giving of their time, talents, and treasures, all while illuminating Making Jesus Known in our congregation and community. We meet every 1-2 months to brainstorm exciting initiatives, like our Festival of Talents, the signing of the Covenant Charter, CofC In-Focus videos, workshop on spiritual gifts, and more! If you would like to join us and help make a difference, reach out to one of our members (Kevin Swagler, Tina Baden, Michael Abraham, Dave Alleman, Laurie Mauro, Rose Ackerman) or contact the church office.



Altar Flowers given by Carol Wiemken for the Glory of God!

