

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“Beneath The Cross Of Jesus” by L. Smith 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

“Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”

ELW 807

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

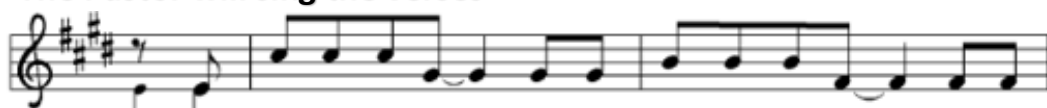


Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



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

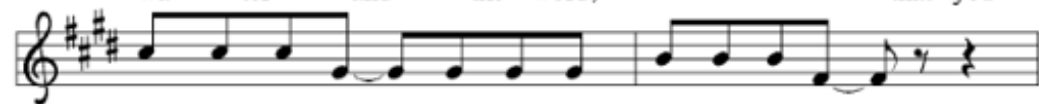
The Pastor will sing the verses



- 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

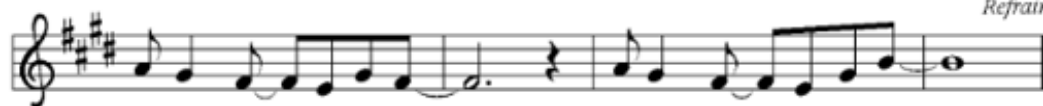


u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



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 God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise, iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

The Second Reading Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 assuming human likeness.
 And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
 and gave him the name
 that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my
 presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear
 and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and
 to work for his good pleasure.

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 21:23-32

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

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Sermon

“Follow the Sinners”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“O Master, Let Me Walk With You”

ELW 818

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 Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in 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, Celeste Grime, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Hannah McCord, Frank O'Konski, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Evelyn Reilly, Rich Rison, Amanda Roth, Phyllis Sturgeon, Vince Tavitian, Greg Urbanski, Evan Vogel, Noah Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Debbie Warner, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike, Staci, Maddie & Baby, LeeAnn...* and all others whom we remember in silence. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest; especially Judy Mock. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. 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.

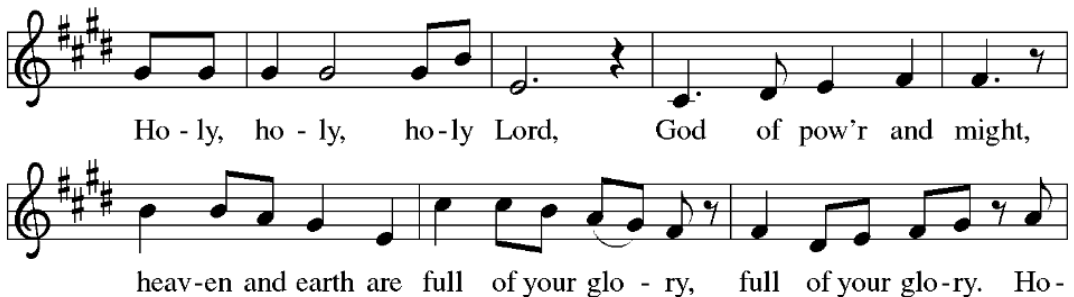
P Lift up your hearts.

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**





The Words of Institution

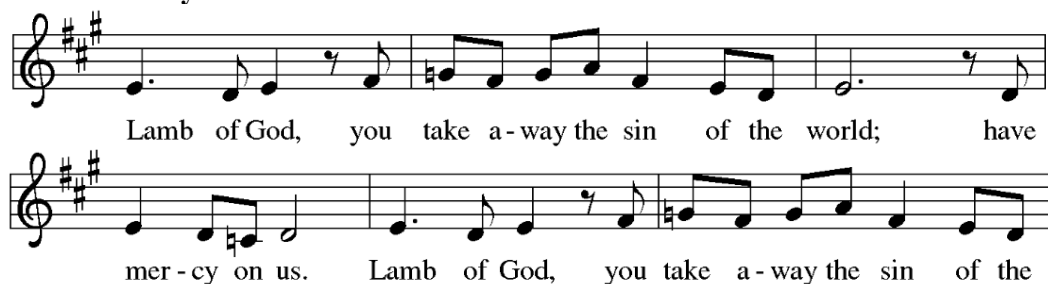
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

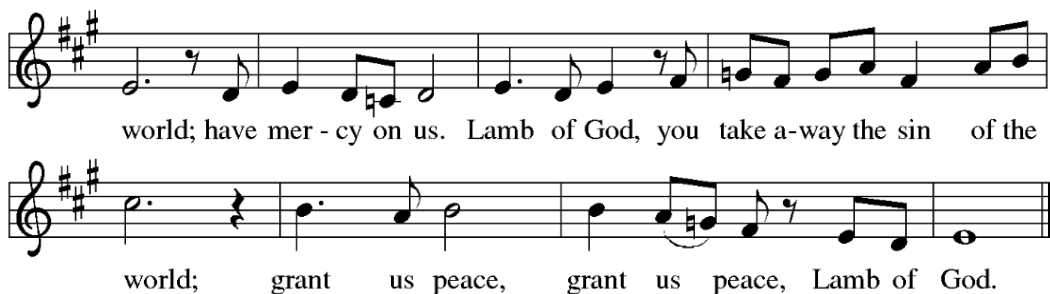
The Lord's Prayer

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"





“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

ELW 484

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

The Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

“On Our Way Rejoicing”

ELW 537

Dismissal

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

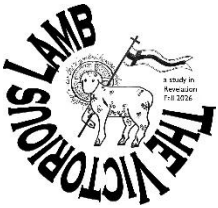
AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

“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 @ Providence	Today, Sunday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.
Vocal Choir	Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, October 1, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals	Saturday, October 3, 10:00 – 11:00 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 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 is the last Sunday** 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 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!!

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.

Update from Bridge of Hope, September 21, 2026. A carload of supplies was delivered to Destinee Chapa at Bridge of Hope in Fremont, Ohio. So far this year, Destinee has provided 143 laundry baskets filled with supplies to migrant workers. Her goal is to reach 220 baskets, and she continues to see harvesting migrants arriving in the area. ***Her biggest needs right now are laundry baskets and new pillows.*** Destinee is very appreciative and wishes to acknowledge the continued support of Community of Christ.

🌸 **Blessing of the Animals — October 3!** Celebrate God's wonderful creation by bringing your beloved pets for a special Blessing of the Animals! Saturday, October 3 from 10:00–11:00 a.m. at the Outside the Main Entrance. Pastor Steve will offer a short prayer of blessing for each pet, along with a special tag for their collar or leash. Dogs, cats, rabbits, turtles, and all creatures are welcome! Come give thanks to God for the love and companionship our pets bring to our lives. We hope to see you and your furry, feathered, or scaly friends! 🐶 🐱 🐢



**Altar Flowers given by Chris & Natalie Rilling in
honor and thanksgiving for our son who is 50 today!**

