



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude “Schmücke dich, o Liebe Seele” by Johannes Brahms Pam Stover

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

“As We Gather At Your Table”

ELW 522

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 O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

The Second Reading Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Sermon

“In Defiance of Disposability”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW 656

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 Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after a disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. *We pray especially for* **Maurice Atkinson, Jim Bell, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ally Dobbins, 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. 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. 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 "Mit Fried und Freüd ich fahr dahin" by J. S. Bach

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.

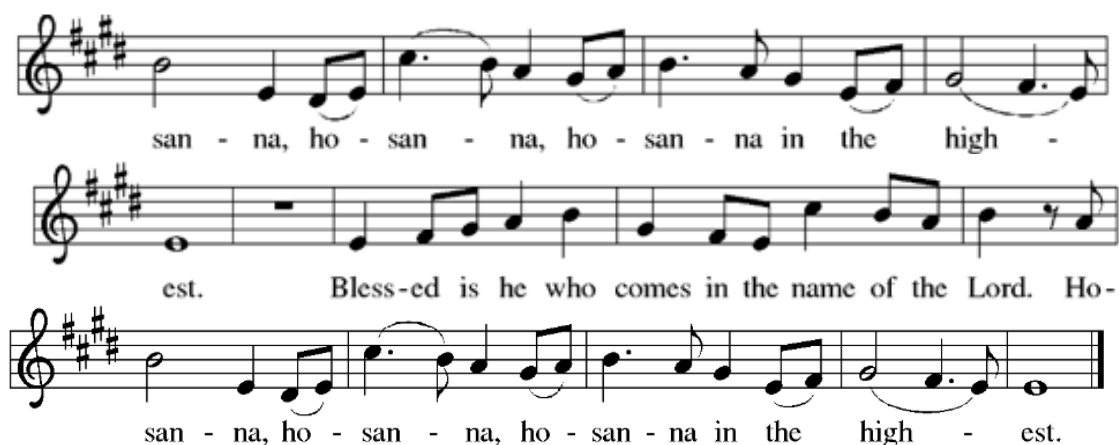
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

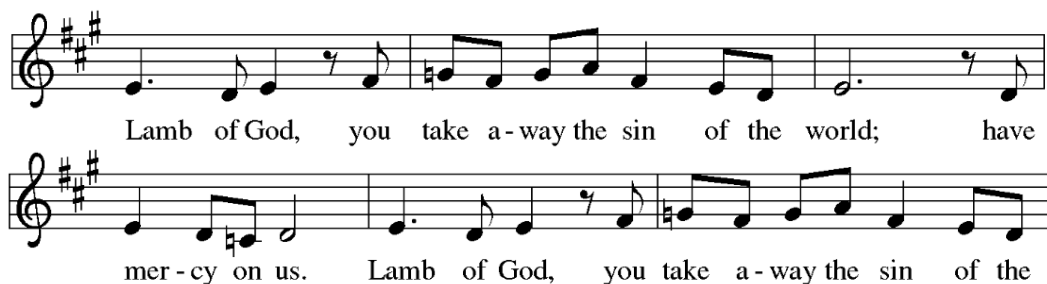
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

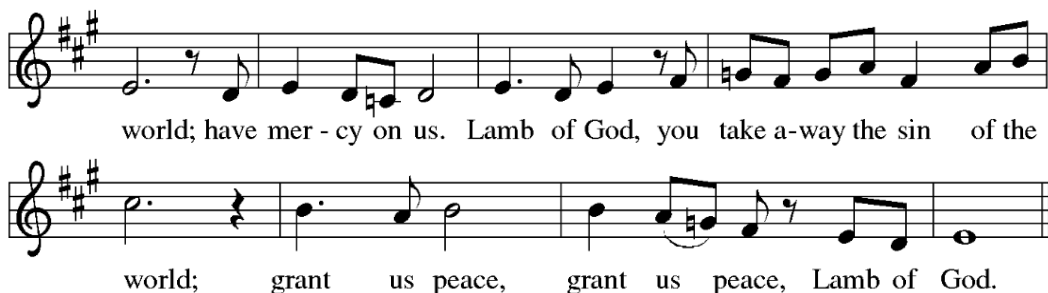
The Lord's Prayer

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"





“Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether”

ELW 470

“Now We Join in Celebration”

ELW 462

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

Thank you and recognition, Pam Stover

The Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW 836

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude: Variations on “Joyful Joyful” by Hal Hopson.

“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 to our church family!

Starting Sept. 11: 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, this fall, we invite you to a new series in our Thursday Bible Study, opening up the Book of Revelation. Starting on September 11, 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.

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)

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 this **Saturday, September 12**, 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. We can't wait to welcome your family for this new opportunity to grow together in faith and community!

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!!

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!



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!

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!

The Ladies Lunch for September 25th @ 11:30 will be at Crust Pizzeria 6792 Providence St. Whitehouse Oh. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be

made. All ladies of the church are welcome & as always ask a friend. Questions? call Becky King at 419-349-7319. See you in September!

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.



<i>Event</i>	<i>Day and Time</i>
Youth Group @ COC	Today, Sunday, September 6, 7:00 p.m.
Church Office Closed	Monday, September 7, Labor Day
Sing-along @ Blue Creek	Tuesday, September 8, 10:00 a.m.
Concert Committee	Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, September 10, 1:00 p.m.
Stewardship	Thursday, September 10, 6:00 p.m.
Risk Management	Thursday, September 10, 7:00 p.m.
Fall Kids and Young Adult Ministry	Saturday, September 12, 5:00 p.m.



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.



Altar Flowers given by Dave Myerholtz in celebration of what would have been their 64th Anniversary! † ❤️ 🙏