Community of Christ Lutheran Church

All Saints Sunday
November 1, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond

THE GATHERING

Welcome Pastor Stephen Bond
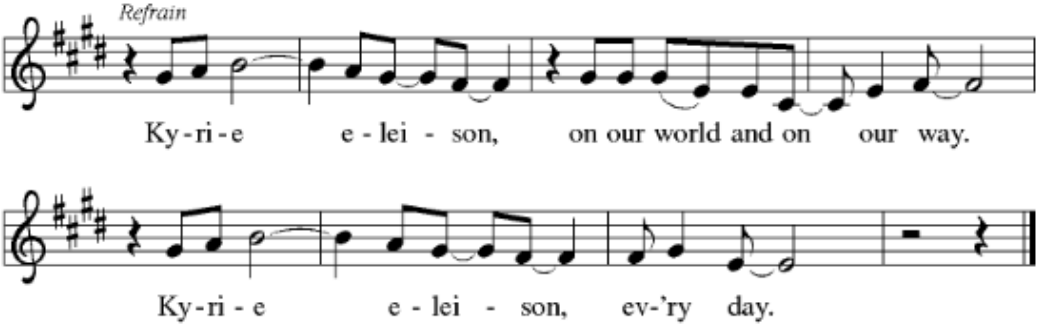
Musical Prelude "Libera Me" (from Requiem) G. Fauré (Arr. R. Lau)
Mariana Steffan

Gathering Hymn "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" **ELW 424**

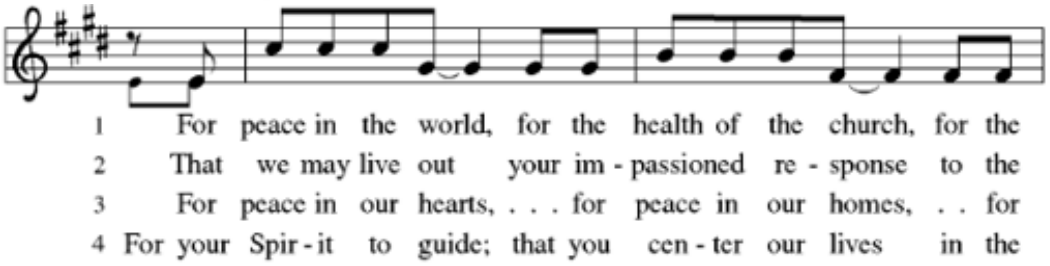
Greeting
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C And also with you.**

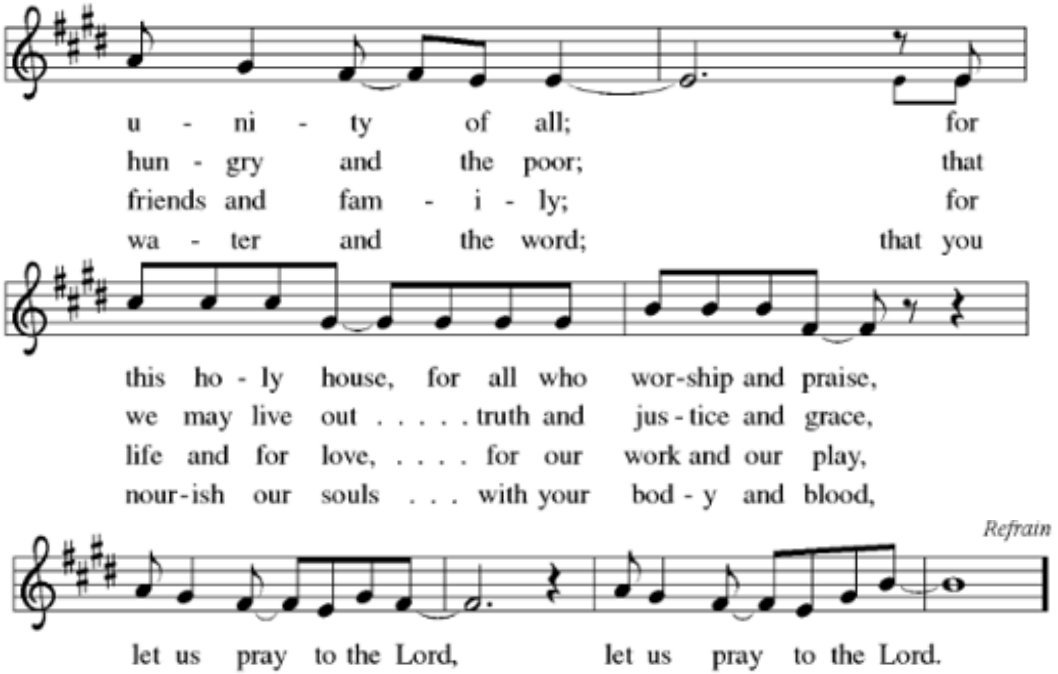
The congregation will sing the refrain only

The words Kyrie eleison are Greek for "Lord, Have Mercy"



The Pastor will sing the verses





Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the
throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four
living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
12 singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white,
and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who
knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great
ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the
Lamb.
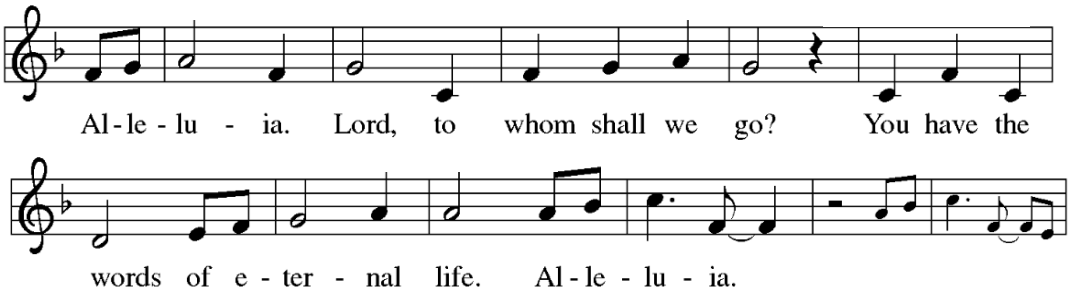
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
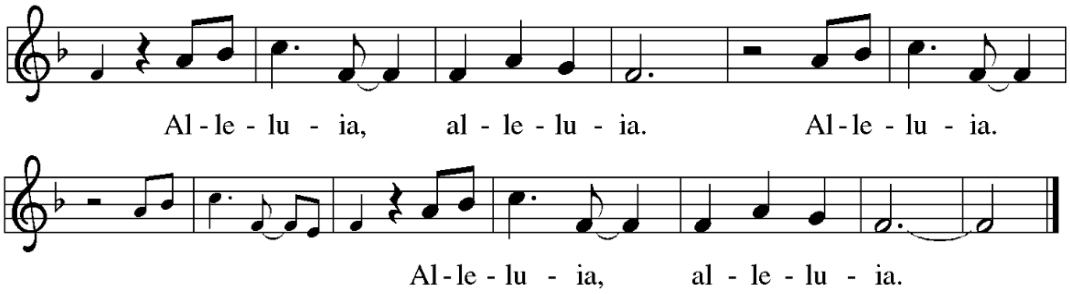
L The Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading 1 John 3:1-3

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God,
and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not
know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been
revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we
will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as
he is pure.

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





The Holy Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

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

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his
disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be
filled.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds
of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is
great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before
you."

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

Sermon *"A Strange God"* *Pastor Steve Bond*

Hymn "For All The Saints" **ELW 422**
VS 1-4

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

AM Fill your church with mercy and humility as we proclaim the gospel in our worship and witness in the world. Renew and inspire all who preach and teach among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

AM Restore all lands suffering from ecological degradation. Protect soils and waterways. Point us toward innovative ways of living in harmony and joy with creation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM Unite the nations in their actions toward justice and peace. Raise up leaders who listen deeply for the needs of their communities and surround the election process with wisdom and discernment. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM Bring comfort and care to all who are in need, especially all who mourn this day. Sustain any who are weary, experiencing loneliness, or struggling with chronic illness. *We pray especially for;* ***Maurice Atkinson, Jeff Bucher, Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Michael Ellerbrock, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Larry Greer, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Hannah McCord, Frank O'Konski, Stacie Phillips, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Evelyn Reilly, Rich Rison, Amanda Roth, Logan Rupp, Phyllis Sturgeon, Jackie Sutter, Vince Tavitian, Evan Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike, Staci, LeeAnn,*** and all others whom we remember in silence. Grant us your salvation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM With grateful hearts we remember all who have died and now rest from their labors: ***Larry Battles, Shirley Cofer, Matthew Davis, Eric Dickey, Jerry Elsholtz, Ray Gottschling, Tom Jennings, Nancy Meyer, Judy Mock, LuAnn Shuman***. *(additional names are read that the congregation has lifted up*). Fill us with songs of praise until we too are gathered at your side. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **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.

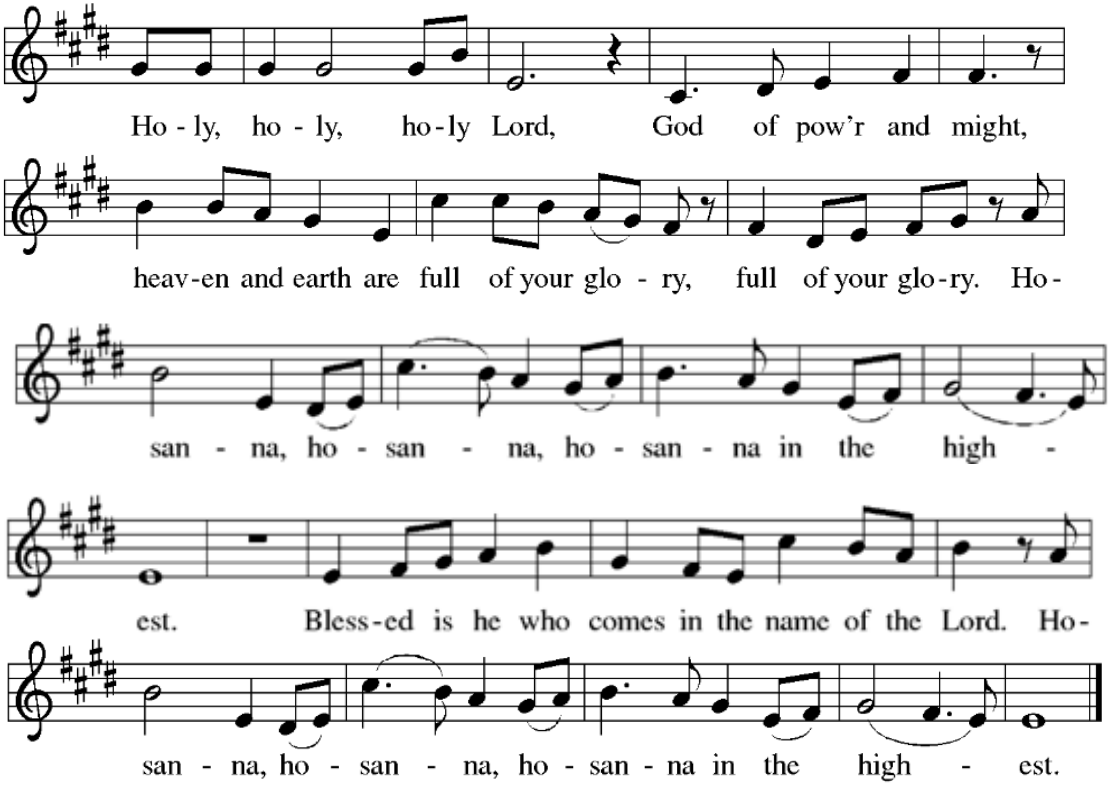
Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offertory

Offering Prayer
AM Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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**



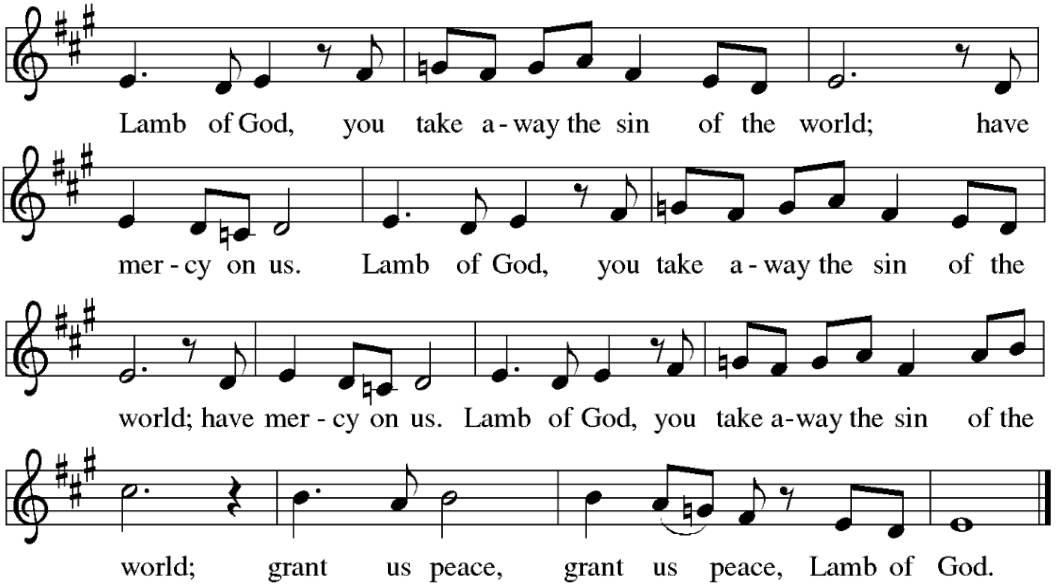
The Words of Institution

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"



"Children Of the Heavenly Father" **ELW 781**

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion
AM Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion
Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick/homebound*. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements

The Blessing
P The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn "Shall We Gather At The River" **ELW 423**

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**
AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

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"Making Jesus Known"

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



Event	*Day and Time*
Youth Group @ CoC	Today, Sunday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.
Visitation Ministry	Monday, November 2, 10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, November 3, 8:30 a.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 a.m.
Social Action	Wednesday, November 4, 10:00 a.m.
Worship & Music	Wednesday, November 4, 6:00 p.m.
Vocal Choir	Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.

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!

New Thursday Bible Study This November Explores the Book of James
If our faith is just a matter of reciting religious-sounding words, there's a pretty decent chance we are play-acting rather than following Jesus. But on the other hand, if our trust in God is evident in our actions, words, and priorities, it's a sign that our faith is alive and kicking. And because of who our God is, that kind of living, thriving faith will always be expressed in love and care for neighbors around us—because that's who God is. That's the kind of faith that the New Testament book of James is interested in kindling within us: something living, daring, thriving, and visible in our daily lives and actions. Curiously enough, though, our older brother in the faith, Martin Luther, was really nervous about this book, because he was really worried we would hear James' statement that "faith without works is dead" like he was saying we have to earn God's love through our good deeds. So how do we read this New Testament book on its own terms, remembering the good news that we are justified by grace through faith while also letting James call us out of just "playing church" by mouthing the right words without letting our faith shape our actions? That's what we'll be looking at in our next Thursday Bible Study, starting in November on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., as we explore the letter of James. If you're interested, join us on Thursday afternoons in the Bible Study/Council room, and we'll find our faith stretched and our discipleship deepened together!

Community of Christ Hosts Shared Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 22
As part of our ongoing collaboration with neighboring congregation Hope United Methodist Church, Community of Christ will host a Community Thanksgiving Service, open to all in the community, on the evening of Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. Join us with folks from across congregations and in our wider community as we give thanks to God for the blessings of this life, and as we pause before the busyness of big meals, traveling relatives, and football games to stop with awe, gratitude, and praise to the Giver of all good gifts. This is a great event to bring a friend, neighbor, or relative to share with! See you here on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m.!

Faith Lab: God Turns Bad into Good
Last month at Faith Lab, we explored Noah's story and learned that just as God saved Noah and the animals, God saves us, too! This month, we'll continue exploring God's story as we hear about Joseph in Genesis 37 and discover how God can bring good even out of difficult situations. All children and young adults are invited to join us on

Saturday, November 14, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. for an evening of food, faith, and fellowship. We'll share a meal together, and while the kids enjoy songs, activities, and a craft, adults will have an opportunity to connect with one another and reflect on Scripture. Faith Lab gives families a chance to grow in faith, build relationships, and discover God's love together. Please email the church office to RSVP or for more information. We hope to see you there!

Deadline for Newsletters**
Looking ahead, due to the busyness of the holiday season and upcoming vacations, the **firm deadlines** for the next newsletters will be:

- **December newsletter:** Tuesday, **November 18**
- **January 2027 newsletter:** Tuesday, **December 16**



Annual Meeting Reports Due November 18
It's time to begin preparing for our Annual Meeting! All ministry, committee, and organization reports are due **Wednesday, November 18**. Please submit your reports by the deadline so we can compile everything and have it ready for the Annual Meeting. Thank you for helping us keep our congregation informed and celebrating all that God is doing through our ministries!

Join Us to Create New Advent Artwork for the Sanctuary! This year, we would love you to help us create a new set of original artwork, so join us on the morning of Saturday, Nov. 21, for an open time to help create new banners and artistic projects for around the church this coming Advent and Christmas season. We've got a few fun surprises for the congregation this year as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, and we would love you to get to be a part of making them a reality. Want to join us? Like being creative? Sign up at the kiosk and join us in the fellowship hall for some painting, cutting, and crafty fun between 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. There will be things to do for adults, kids, and anybody in between! If you're interested, join us on Nov. 21!

Annual Congregational Meeting—December 6 at 11:15 a.m. Coming up just into December will be Community of Christ's annual congregational meeting, following the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 6 at about 11:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We would invite you to mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this important yearly time to review the year behind us, to give thanks for God's presence among us now, and to look ahead to the year in front of us. We'll consider reports from the committees of our congregation, elect new council members for terms starting in the new year, and address any other congregational business, so this is an important meeting to attend!

<u>Vulnerable God:</u> An Invitation to a Four-Part Book Discussion Starting this December In the coming church year (starting with Advent in December 2026), we'll be invited especially to focus on how Jesus shows us simultaneously **both** what *God* is like **and** what it truly means to be *human*. And as one way for us to more deeply engage those BIG IDEAS, Pastor Steve is inviting anyone who is interested to a four-part discussion group that will read a recent book exploring these themes, spread out over the upcoming seasons of the church's liturgical year. Kenneth Tanner's book, *Vulnerable God: How Jesus Upends Our Assumptions About God—And Shows Us How to Be Human*, is written to explore the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in ways that echo the flow of our church's year. So, we'll invite anyone who is interested to gather four times in the coming months, beginning in early December 2026 and then throughout the winter and spring of 2027, for discussion gatherings about each section of the book, from Advent and Christmas to Epiphany, and then to Lent and Easter. If you are interested in being a part of this book discussion as it unfolds over these upcoming months, we would invite you to sign up at the kiosk and mark your calendar to join us on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. here at Community of Christ. We'll share information about future dates and gatherings in the coming weeks, but we'd welcome you to join us for this first event on Dec. 5. If you would like to order a copy of the book as part of a group order, you can sign up at the kiosk as well, too, and we'll place an order for you with copies costing **$20.00**. We'll have them to you in time to have the chance to read the first section of the book by Dec. 5! If you are interested, sign up or ask Pastor Steve if you have any questions!

High-Quality Bar Soaps Available on Nov. 22 to Support Salem!
Did you know our own member Jennifer Braun makes a specialty line of bar soaps? You might have seen them on display for sale at the Average Joe's Car Show here back in August and seen the wide variety of scents, ingredients, and colors! She's making those soaps available before and after worship and between services coming up on Sunday, Nov. 22, as a project through the Social Action Committee to raise additional money for our friends and ministry partners up at Salem on the North End of Toledo. These soaps would be great Christmas present/stocking-stuffers for people in your life, and Jennifer is donating all profits to a collection for Salem—check out the table in the Gathering Space on November 22!

It's that wonderful time of year again!

We know it seems early, but to meet our required deadline, we're inviting you and your family to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one.

Please fill out your envelope (available on the table in the gathering space or at the back of the church) and submit your payment today!

You may pick up your flowers after our 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Poinsettia Order:
$10.00
per plant

Color Options:
Pink, Red, or White

Deadline:
Sunday, November 8th
(orders cannot be accepted after this date).

Thank you for helping make our worship space beautiful this Christmas season!



Altar Flowers given by Anne Greenhagen in memory of Aaron† ❤️‍🩹 🙏

Church Office CLOSED
November 11, 25, 26, & 27



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!