

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

**Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond**



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude

“We Will Glorify” T. Paris

Bell Choir

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

“God Is Here!”

ELW 526

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 Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,

⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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

The Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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 22:15-22

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

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Sermon

"What Belongs to God"

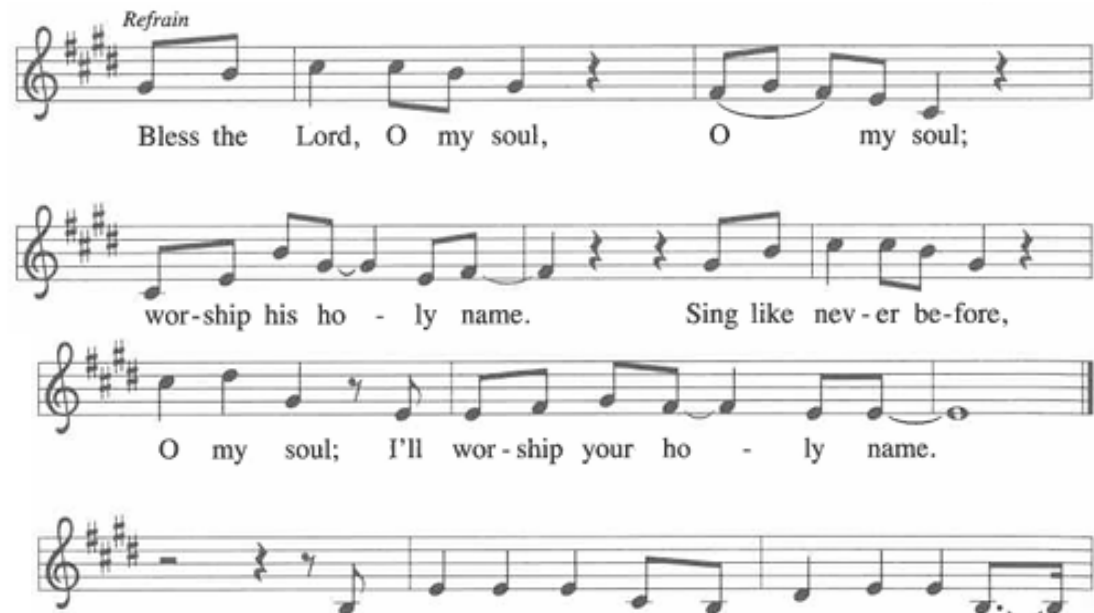
Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

"Ten Thousand Reasons"

ACS 1097

Refrain



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,
O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.

1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the

. . . it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name . . is . . . great, and your heart is kind. For all . . your
end . . draws near, and my time has come; . . . still, my

pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be
good-ness, I will keep . . on . . sing-ing— ten thou-sand
soul will sing your praise un - end-ing— ten thou-sand

Refrain
sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
rea - sons for my heart to find.
years and then for - ev - er - more!

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 Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. *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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 10:00 a.m. – Offering Invitation

Please remain seated during the offering. Our youth will be passing the plates, and you are invited to use the special envelopes provided if you would like to support our youth as they prepare for the 2027 National Youth Gathering. Thank you for helping make this experience possible for our young people!

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.

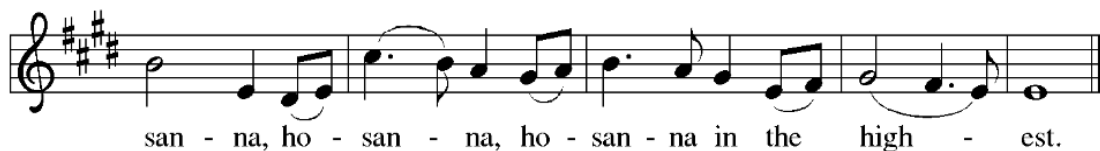
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 -



The Words of Institution

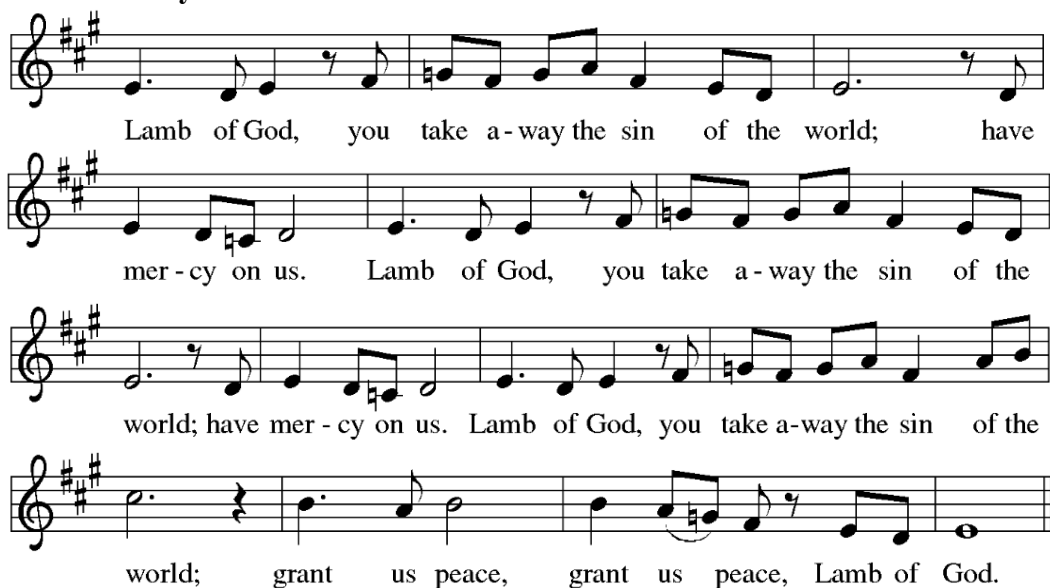
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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



"Taste and See"

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.**

(10:00 a.m.) *Please be seated*

“Sanctuary”

Youth from Rooted

Sending Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

Dismissal

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

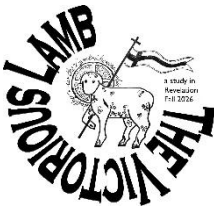
AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

“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 18, 7:00 p.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, October 20, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club	Tuesday, October 20, 1:00 p.m.
Vocal Choir	Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, October 22, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, October 22, 7:00 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!

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!

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 23 • 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.



All Saints Day---November 1: We will remember in prayer our family and friends who rest with the Lord. Please include the name of your loved one on the list posted at the kiosk. The deadline for names is Sunday, October 25. Thank you.

Winter Coats Needed As the colder months approach, Salem is collecting **machine-washable adult winter coats** to help keep our neighbors warm. If you have a gently used coat you no longer need, please consider donating it. Adult sizes of all kinds are welcome! Thank you for helping us share warmth and care with those in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Heckler at 270-763-7224.

Thank you, Youth! A heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing youth from our congregation and our partnering congregations who stepped in and took on various roles during our 10:00 a.m. worship service! Your willingness to serve, participate, and share your gifts helped make our worship special. We are so grateful for each of you and the joy you bring to our church family! And a special thank you to our CY&F Director, Bryce, for guiding, encouraging, and leading our youth. We appreciate all you do to help them grow in faith and discover the many ways they can serve. We are blessed by our youth! Thank you for helping make Jesus known! ❤️

Support Our Youth! At our 10:00 a.m. worship service, our youth will be taking part in the service as we celebrate and support their journey to the 2027 National Youth Gathering. **Special envelopes** are available at the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to make a donation. Thank you for supporting our young people and helping make this experience possible!



Altar Flowers given by Sandy Boehly, in celebration of Sara's Birthday! and by Rory & Peggy Hartbarger in Celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary! 🎉 + ❤️ 🙏



*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!*





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!