



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude “God Of Grace and God Of Glory” J. W. Krug (Tune: CWM
RHONDDA by J. Hughes) 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 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Jonathon Siebenaler, Trumpet
ELW 504

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

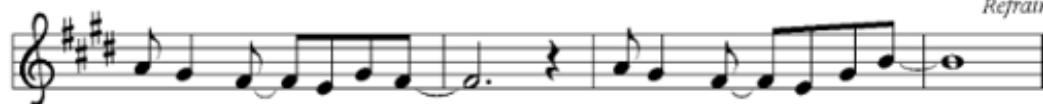


u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



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 Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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

Anthem “May The Grace Of God Go With You” Words and Music by A. L. Page
Chancel Choir

THE READINGS

The First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

The Second Reading Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over

the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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 John 8:31-36

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

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Sermon

“It’s All Been A Gift”

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Baptized in Water”

ELW 456

10:00 a.m.

Holy Baptism of JoLynn and Arbor Kimball

(Please refer to your hymnal, page 227)

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 As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are 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 give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. 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

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.

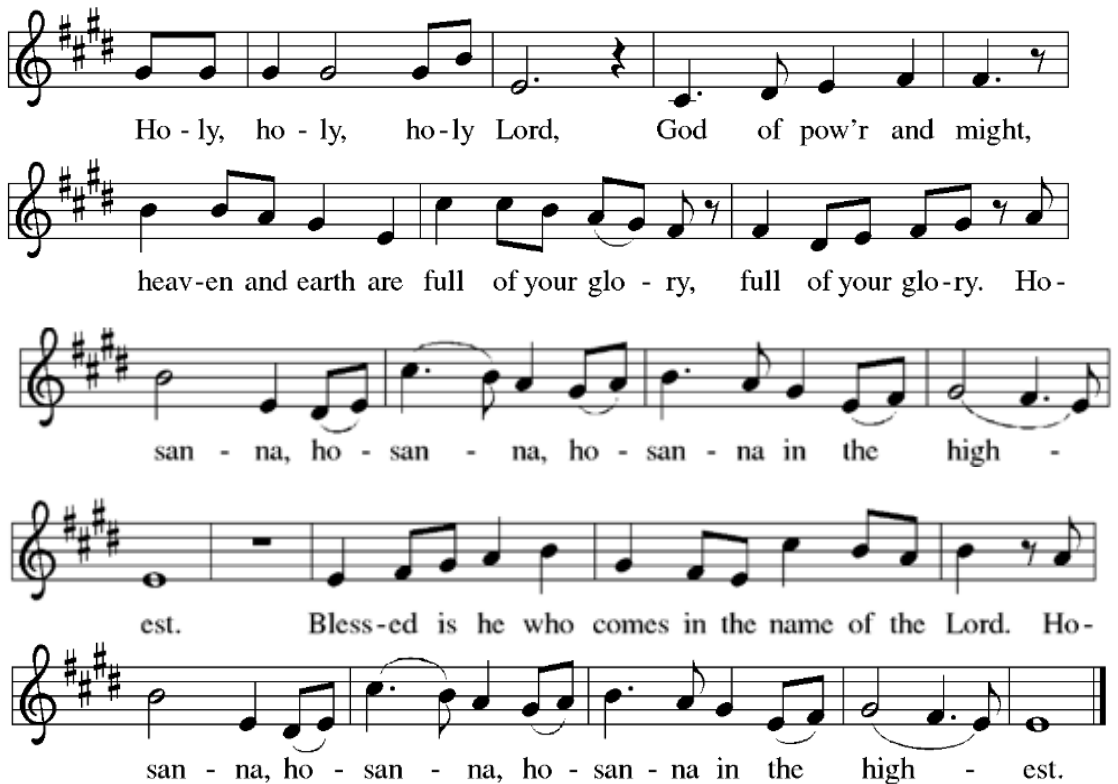
P Lift up your hearts.

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

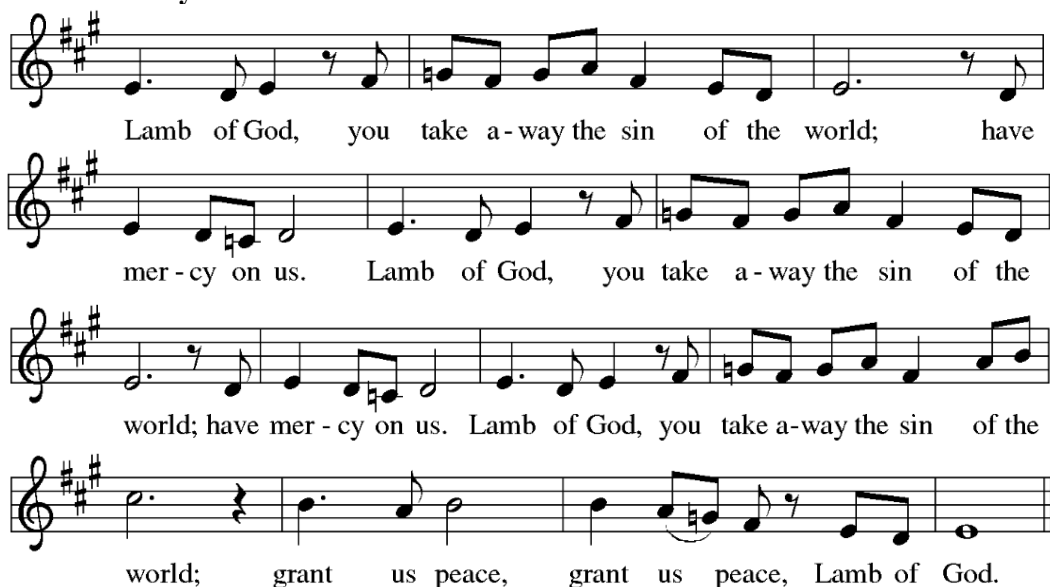
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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

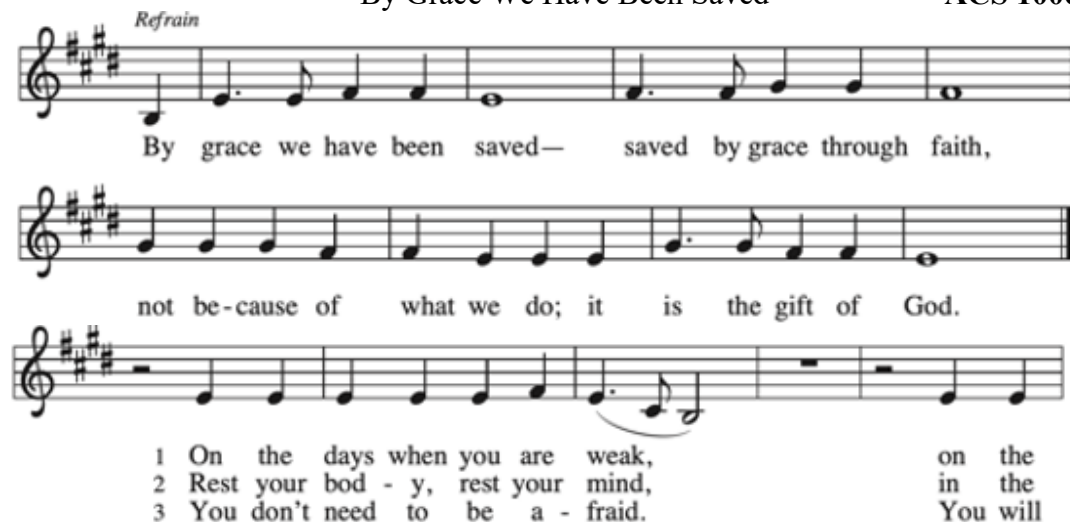


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

“By Grace We Have Been Saved”

ACS 1006

Refrain



By grace we have been saved— saved by grace through faith,
not be-cause of what we do; it is the gift of God.
1 On the days when you are weak, on the
2 Rest your bod-y, rest your mind, in the
3 You don't need to be a-fraid. You will

days when you are strong, rich or poor,
still - ness you will find you're a love - ly,
nev - er be a - lone. There is mer - cy,

Refrain
young or old, just lis - ten to the song.
pre - cious child, part of the great de - sign.
there is hope, and love will take you home.

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

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

ELW 517

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, at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.—either in person or via Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m. 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>
Confirmation Class @ St. Paul Lutheran in Haskins	Today, Sunday, October 25, 12:30 p.m.
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, October 27, 8:30 a.m.
Vocal Choir	Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, October 29, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, October 29, 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!

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 **TODAY, 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.

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.

A Warm Welcome & Celebration of Holy Baptism! We're thrilled to welcome Bob, Melissa, Hope, Parker, Ella, JoLynn, and Arbor Kimball into our Community of Christ family! What a joy it is to celebrate their presence among us and to share in the beautiful gift of Holy Baptism of JoLynn and Arbor. We give thanks for this special day and pray that God's love, grace, and blessings continue to guide and surround the Kimball Family as they begin this new chapter of faith with us. Welcome, Kimball Family! We are so blessed to have you as part of our church family!

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.!

Thank You, Youth! A heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing youth from our congregation and our partnering congregations who will be participating in worship at Providence Lutheran today, October 25, just as they did last weekend! We are so grateful for your willingness to serve, participate, and share your gifts during worship. Your presence and enthusiasm help make our time together meaningful and special. We are blessed by 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 so blessed by our youth and thankful for the ways they continue to Make Jesus Known!



Altar Flowers given by Neil & Susan Raymond in
Celebration of their 33rd 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!*



It's All Been A Gift—A Song for JoLynn and Arbor
Drawn from Romans 3:19-28—October 25, 2026 (Reformation Sunday)

All our permanent records must be full of red ink
With the list of our mess-ups, our sins, and misdeeds.
That's just how the world works—isn't that how God thinks?
No— instead, Jesus tells us we are already freed.

I've stumbled and fallen, and here's what I've learned
How You keep on giving what we never earned
It's a change of perspective, it's a paradigm shift
To discover You love us—and it's all been a gift.

I have never been too good at following rules
And in time my achievements will crumble to dust
But You keep on gathering failures and fools
And just as we are, You invite us to trust.

I've stumbled and fallen, and here's what I've learned
How You keep on giving what we never earned
It's a change of perspective, it's a paradigm shift
To discover you love us—and it's all been a gift.

Now apart from performance and apart from the law
We are brought to the water and You join us to Christ
All our scorekeeping tallies we humbly withdraw
As you pour out upon us your mercy unpriced.

I've stumbled and fallen, and here's what I've learned
How You keep on giving what we never earned
It's a change of perspective, it's a paradigm shift
To discover you love us—and it's all been a gift.



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!