Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond

THE GATHERING

Welcome Pastor Stephen Bond
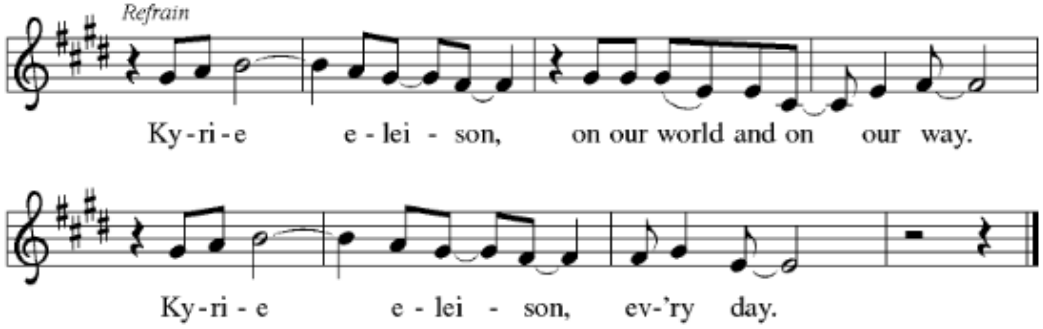
Musical Prelude "You Raise Me Up" by B. Graham Mariana Steffan

Gathering Hymn "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory" **ELW 890**

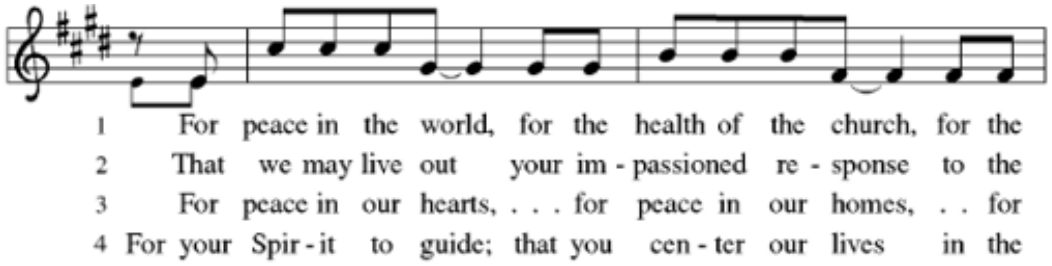
Greeting
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C And also with you.**

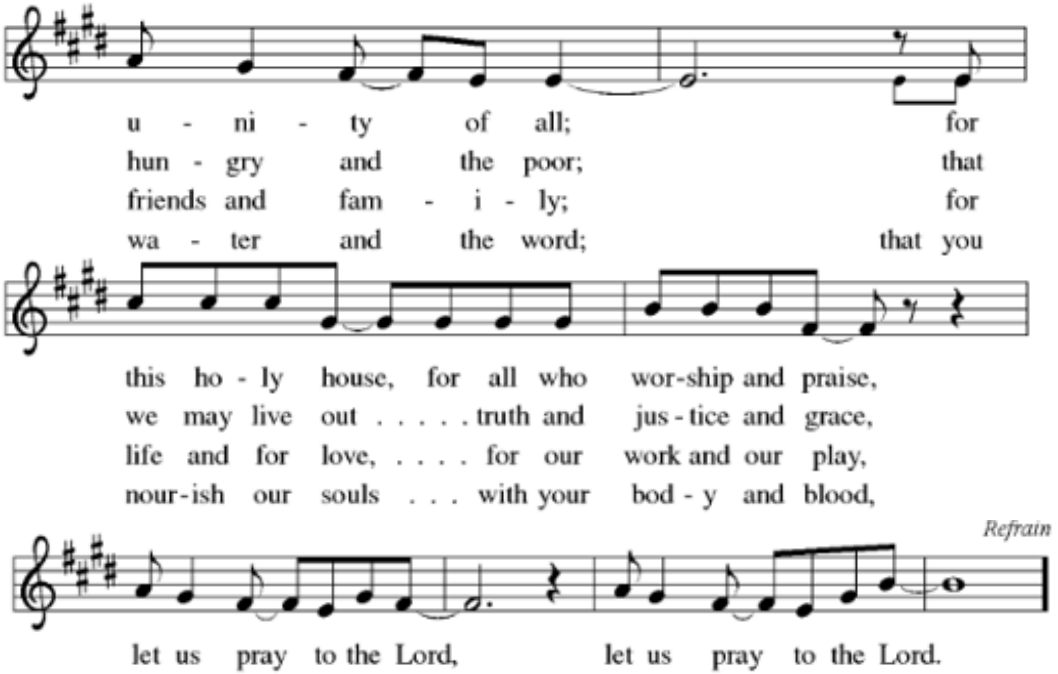
The congregation will sing the refrain only

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



The Pastor will sing the verses





Prayer of the Day

P Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Temple Talk *(8:00 a.m. – Teresa Loga and 10:00 a.m. – Brian Jones)*

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,

those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

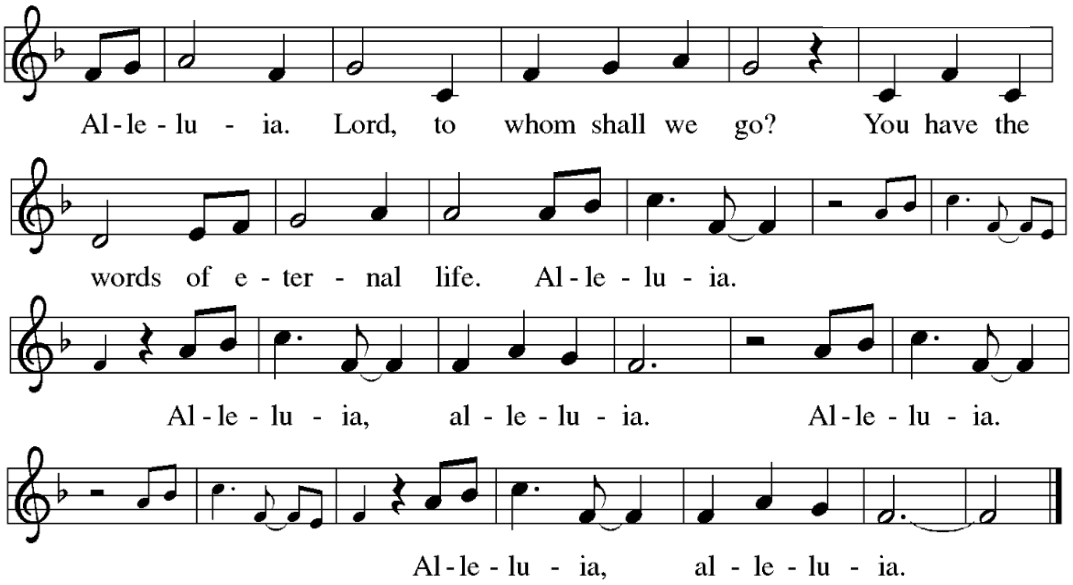
L The Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God!**

The Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of

the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, “There is peace and
security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a
pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not
in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light
and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not
fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep,
sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to
the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet
the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are
awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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



The Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned
his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At
once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and
made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made

two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Sermon *"The Reckless Investor God"* *Pastor Steve Bond*

Hymn "Thy Holy Wings" **ELW 613**

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

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

A brief silence.

AM You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

AM As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. *We pray especially for:* ***Maurice Atkinson, Jeff Bucher, Paul B., Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Michael Ellerbrock, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Larry Greer, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Dan Meyer, Frank O'Konski, Stacie Phillips, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Evelyn Reilly, Pat Rison, Rich Rison, Amanda Roth, Alexis & Zac Shoup, Phyllis Sturgeon, Vince Tavitian, Evan Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike…*** and all others whom we remember in silence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, especially Robert Donnal. We remember all who have entered eternal life in you. 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.

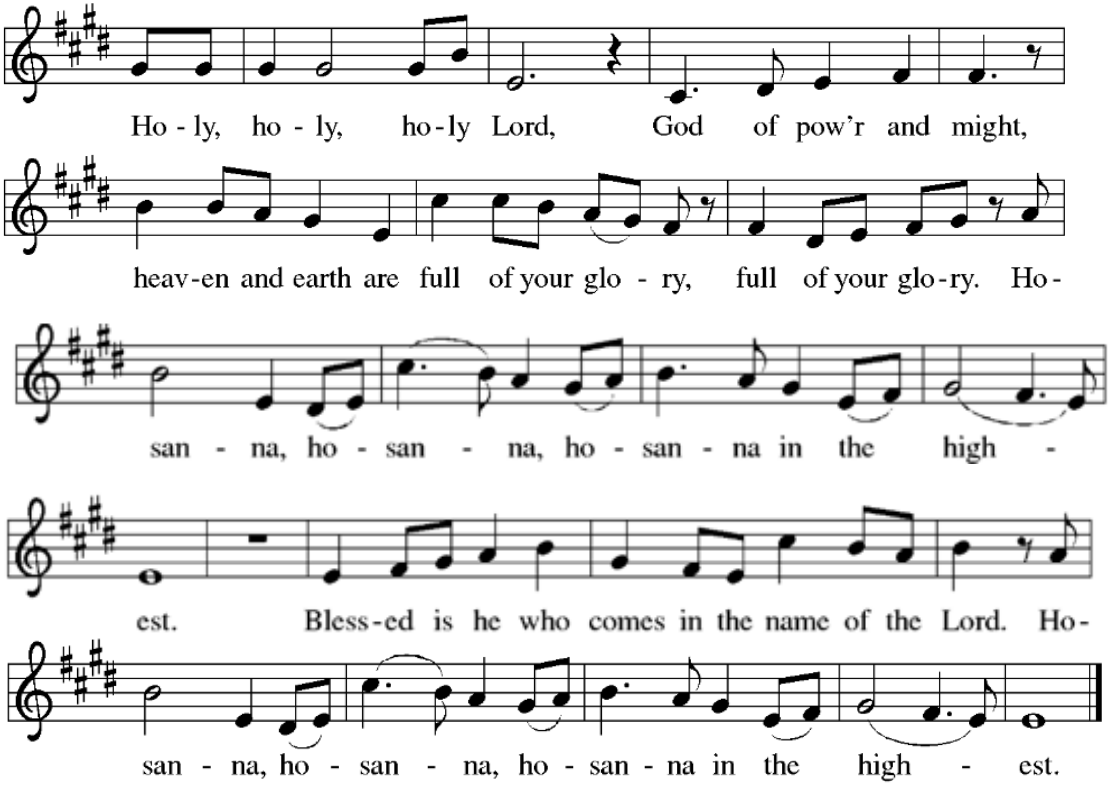
Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

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**



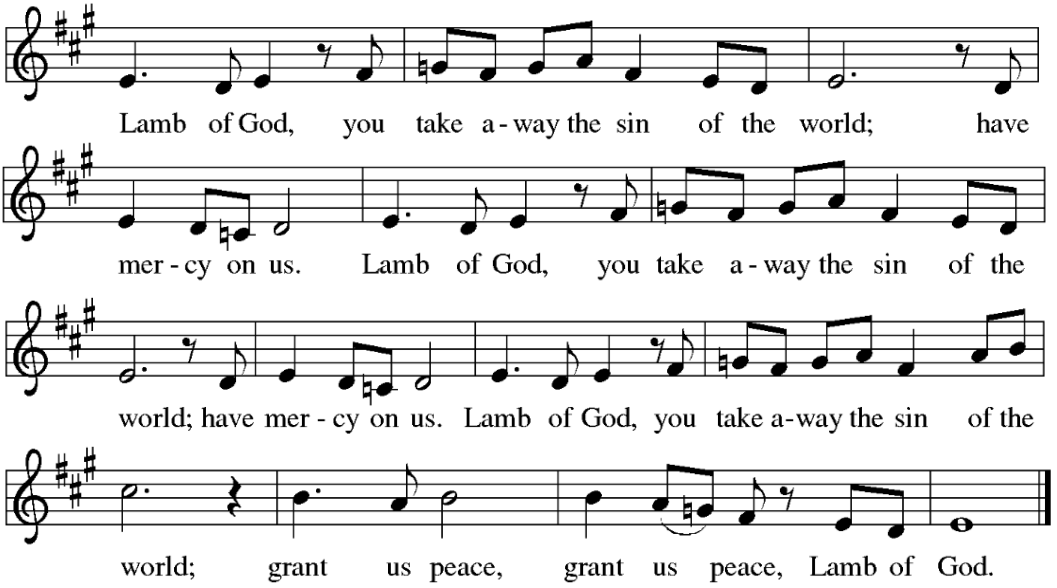
The Words of Institution

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"



"As The Grains Of Wheat" **ELW 465**

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.**

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 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" **ELW 543**

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 8:00am 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!

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 9:00 am 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!

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.!

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: Wednesday, November 18**
- **January 2027 newsletter: Tuesday, December 15**



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 **A Special Note**: As the cost of everyday items and necessary repairs continues to rise, we will be bringing forward a recommendation to increase the Council's purchasing approval limit. This change to the bylaws would give the Council a little more flexibility in taking care of the church's needs as they arise, while helping to reduce the need for special congregational meetings for routine or unexpected expenses. Our hope is to make the process a little easier and more efficient while continuing to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Vulnerable God: Four-Part Book Discussion Beginning this Advent, we'll explore how Jesus shows us both what God is like and what it means to be human. Pastor Steve invites you to join a four-part discussion of Kenneth Tanner's *Vulnerable God: How Jesus Upends Our Assumptions About God—and Shows Us How to Be Human.* The discussions will follow the church year, from Advent and Christmas through Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. First Gathering: **Saturday, December 5, 9:30–11:30 a.m.** Location: Community of Christ. Sign up at the kiosk to participate or to order a copy of the book for $20. Future discussion dates will be announced soon. Questions? Please see Pastor Steve!

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!

Fa-la-la-la-la-yeah! The holiday season is rapidly approaching, and so is our 4th Annual Christmas Caroling event! This year it will be on **FRIDAY, December 11th**. Please join us as we go out and spread Christmas joy to some of our shut-ins and community members. No experience required! No talent required! No memorization required! Song books with some of your favorite carols will be provided. Exact start time and route is currently being worked out, after spreading Christmas joy we'll share in some holiday cheer with pizza and snacks at the Swagler's home. Please sign-up at the kiosk.

Join friends from Visitation Ministry and neighbors from Blue Creek Nursing Home to sing Christmas carols, give out ornaments, and share some seasonal cheer with the residents and staff at Blue Creek! All are invited to meet up at Blue Creek (we'll start in the activity room by the main entrance where we usually meet for our monthly time of singing and prayer) on **Tuesday, December 1 at 2:00pm** (note the later start time to accommodate needs of the residents and staff), and we'll be finished by about 2:30pm. This will be our December outing at Blue Creek, so we will ***not*** sing on the second Tuesday in December. We'll supply songbooks with words to favorite sacred and secular carols for the Christmas season (so we'll have a mix of "Joy to the World" as well as "Frosty the Snowman"), so all you need to bring is yourself!

Adopt a Resident at the Lutheran Home of Mercy! This holiday season, many of the LHM residents may not have family nearby. You can help spread love and joy by adopting one of these residents! We currently have 24 residents who would greatly appreciate your support through a Christmas gift. Would you consider bringing a smile to a resident's face this Christmas? Your thoughtful gift can make a significant difference in their lives. ****Important Details** 1) Sign Out & In * Sign out/in the resident sheet with the dates, and your name 2) *Gift Submission Deadline* Sunday, December 13th (gifts cannot be accepted after this date as they will be taken to LHM the next day) 3) *<u>Please wrap</u> each gift and place the resident's name on each, as they need to be inventoried.** Thank you for showing love and kindness as Jesus teaches us! Let's make this holiday season special for our residents. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Carol Wiemken at 419-261-3577 or cabardo1963@gmail.com.

Children's Christmas Play – Sunday, December 20 We are excited to invite the children and grandchildren of our congregation to participate in this year's Christmas Play during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 20! Practices will take place on December 6, 12 or 13, 19, and 20. Children are welcome to participate in either speaking or non-speaking roles. Please call or email Michelle by Thanksgiving if your child or grandchild would like to participate and their preferred role. We look forward to sharing the joy of Christmas together!

Save the Date! Free Christmas Concert – December 13 Join Hope United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 13, at 4:00 PM for a free community Christmas concert! Enjoy a variety of Christmas music featuring choirs, handbells, contemporary songs, special musical performances, and a congregational sing-along. Stay afterward for Christmas treats and fellowship as we celebrate the joy of the season. Everyone is welcome! We hope you are able to spend an hour or so that Sunday to help celebrate the Christmas season! **If you would like to join in the music**, or if you have any other questions, please contact Matt Zwyer (Hope Choral director) at mzwyer@gmail.com or via 419-276-0032.

Family Christmas Gift Baskets – Help Share the Joy! Team Jesus is partnering with Salem Lutheran Church to collect Family Christmas Gift Baskets for families in need this Christmas. Individuals, families, or groups are invited to put together a basket filled with suggested household, kitchen, snack, personal care, and other helpful items. The flyer list of suggested items is on the kiosk or the table in the gathering space. Please sign up at the kiosk if you would like to participate. Completed baskets should be placed in the Gathering Place by **Sunday, December 6, 2026**. Our goal is to collect 40 or more baskets! Thank you for helping bring a little extra joy to families this Christmas!

Event	*Day and Time*
NYG “Getting Ready”	Today, Sunday, November 15, 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group @ CoC	Today, Sunday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, November 17, 8:30 a.m.
Quilt Ministry	Tuesday, November 17, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club	Tuesday, November 17, 1:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, November 19, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.
Advent Artwork	Saturday, November 21, 9:30 a.m.

****Special Note: No choirs November 25 & 26, no Bible Study November 26****



Altar Flowers given by David & Sharon Prueter in Honor of their Wedding Anniversary! ✝❤️🙏







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!