Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond

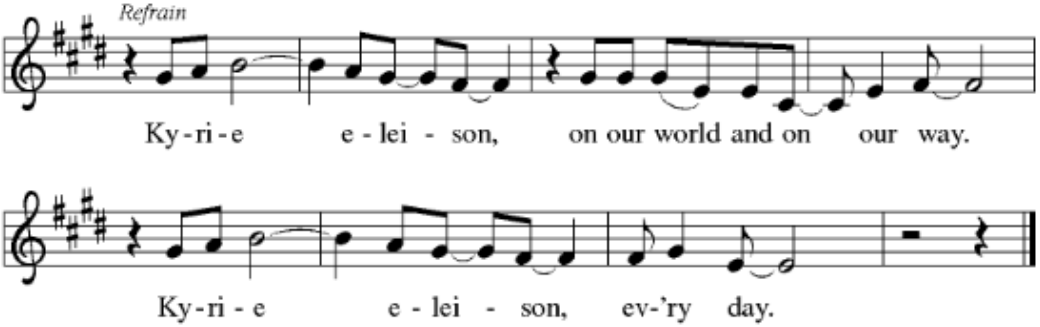
THE GATHERING

Welcome		Pastor Stephen Bond
Musical Prelude **8 a.m. and 10 a.m.**	"He Has Made Me Glad" by L.Von Brethorst	Bell Choir
Gathering Hymn	"Crown Him With Many Crowns"	**ELW 855**

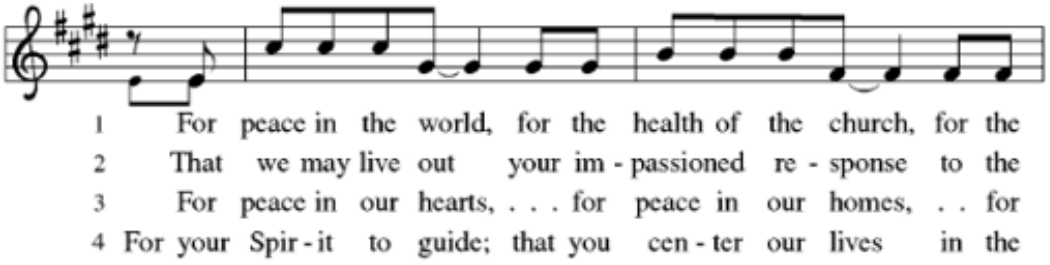
Greeting
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C And also with you.**

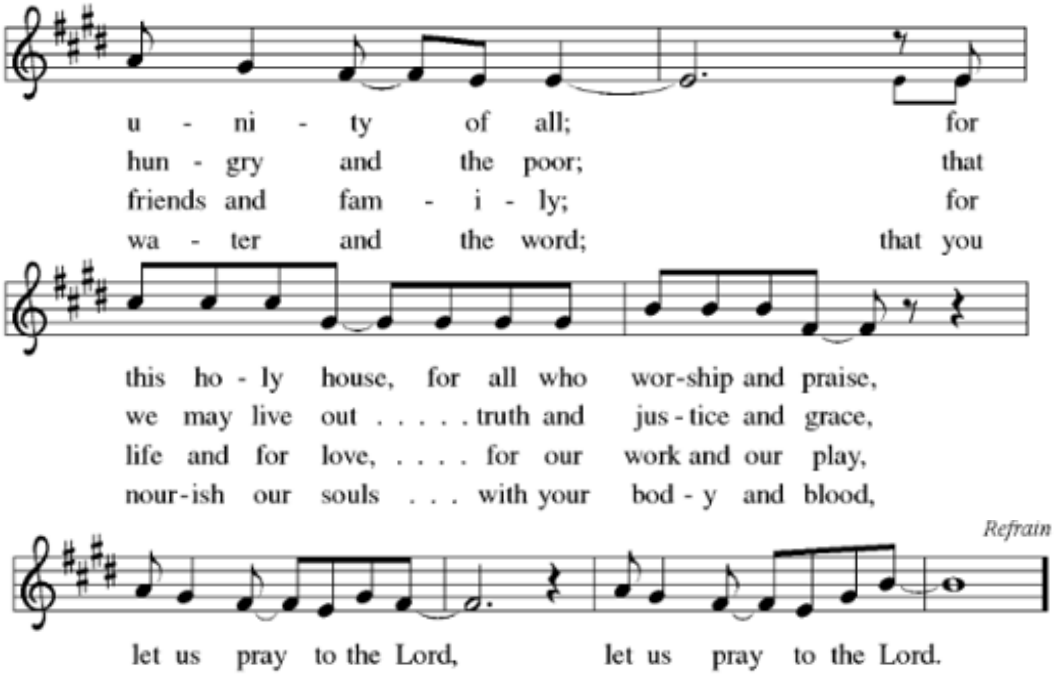
The congregation will sing the refrain only

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



The Pastor will sing the verses





Prayer of the Day

P O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Temple Talk *(8:00 a.m. – Andrea Donely and 10:00 a.m. – Nate Yokum)*

Childrens Sermon

Anthem: "Let Us Give Thanks Together" Words: J. Nagy, Music: R. Nagy
(10:00 a.m.) Chancel Choir

THE READINGS

The First Reading Ezekiel 34:11 – 16, 20-24

[7][11] Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. [12] As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. [13] I will bring them out from

the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

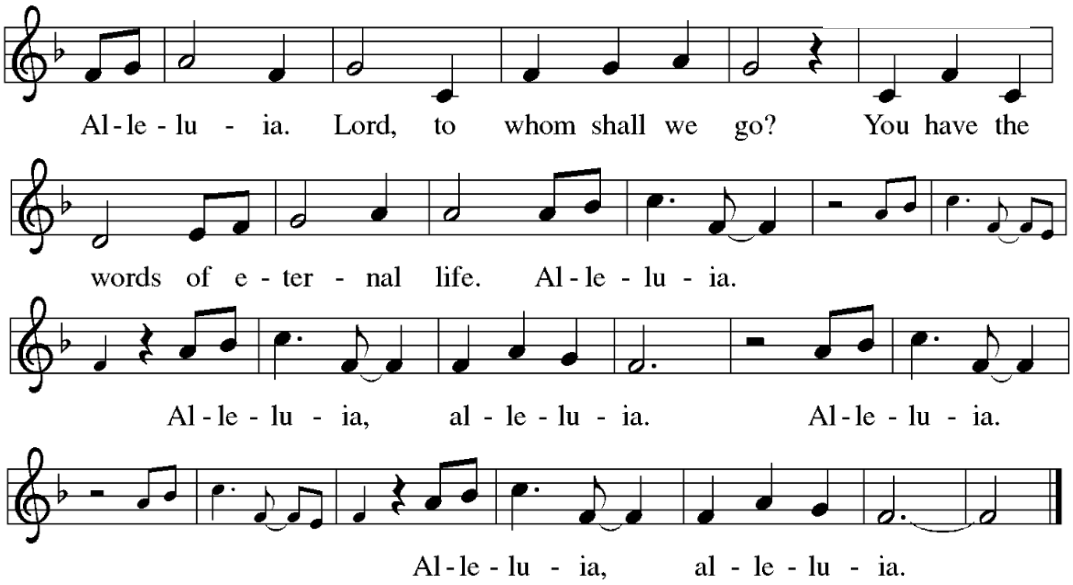
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

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

The Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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



The Holy Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

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

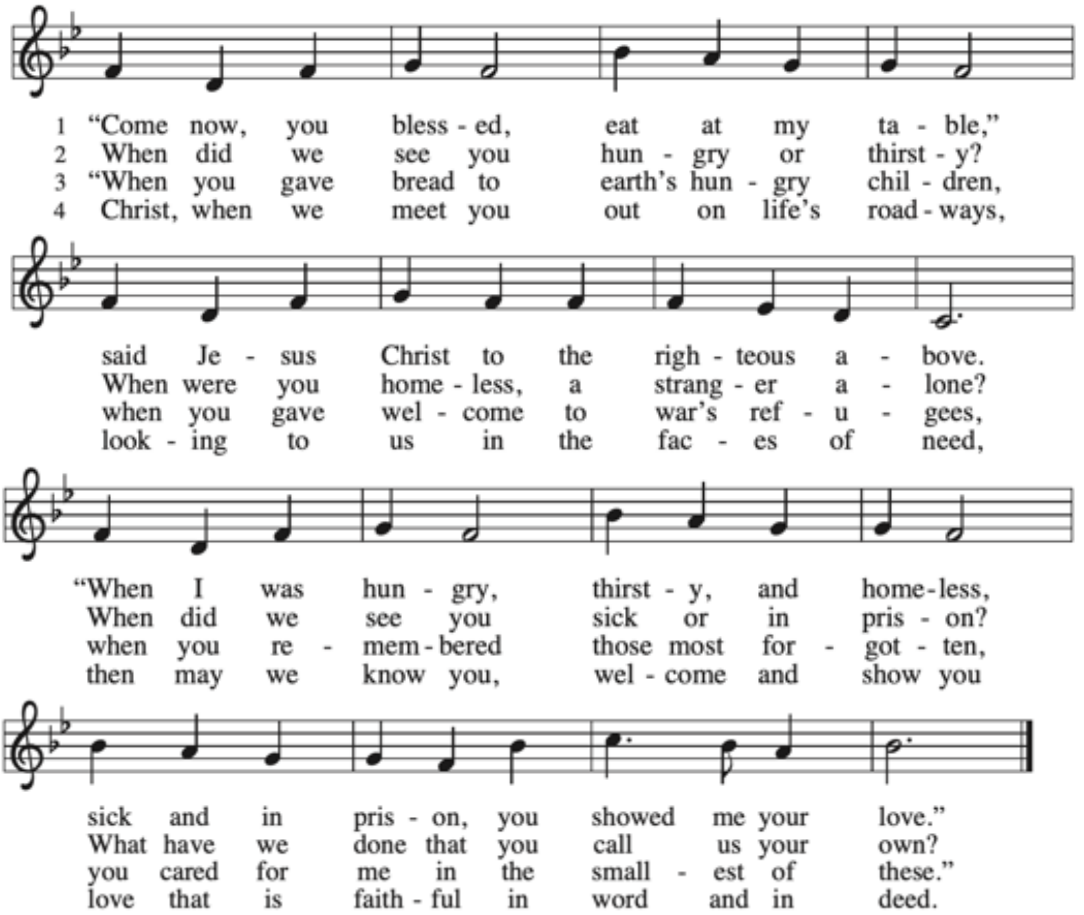
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the
angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be
gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and
the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you
who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the
foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and
you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was
naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in
prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was
it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to
drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked
and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and
visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to
one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he
will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave
me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and
you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in
prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it

that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Sermon *"The King Goes Incognito"* *Pastor Steve Bond*

Hymn "Come Now You Blessed" **ACS 1059**



(10:00 a.m.) Affirmation of Baptism--Reception of New Members

(Please refer to your hymnal, page 234)

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 Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

AM All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. *We pray especially for;* ***Maurice Atkinson, Jeff Bucher, Paul B., Donna Cochran, Jake Cope, Nancy Deshetler, Virginia Dillon, Ryan Dunn, Michael Ellerbrock, Baby Elliott, Sue & Jim Enk, Larry Greer, Tim Heckler, Luke Holtz, Matt Jurrus, Chris Lewis, 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 Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, especially Luann Alleman, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. 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.

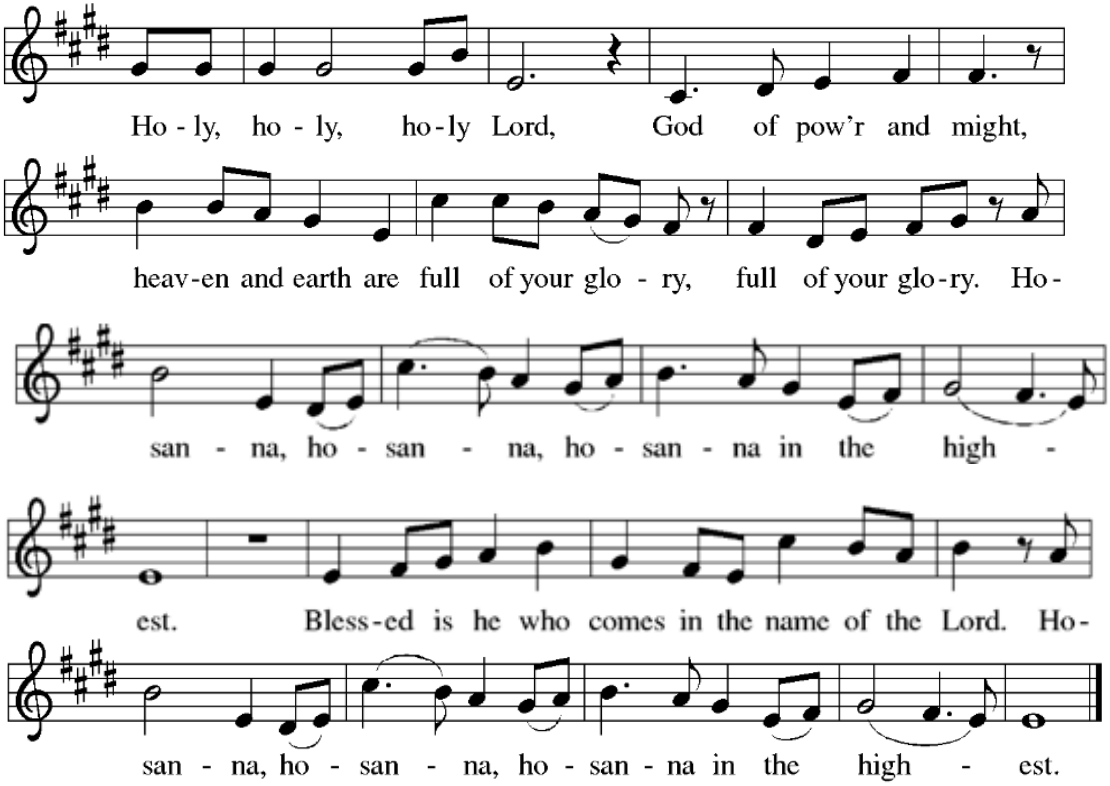
Sharing of the Peace
P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor please.

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.*

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**



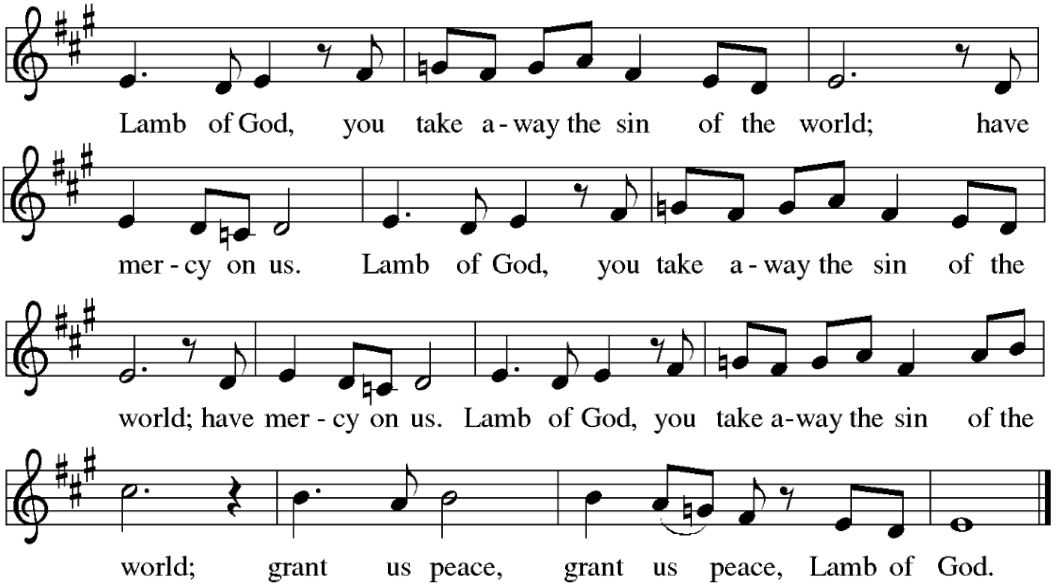
The Words of Institution

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"



"Come To The Table" **ELW 481**

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 "Shine, Jesus, Shine!" **ELW 671**

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!

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!

Thursday Bible Study 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 Thursday Bible Study, 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 Tonight, 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.!

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 TODAY, 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 services 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!

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 2:00 p.m.** (note the later start time to accommodate the needs of the residents and staff), and we'll be finished by about 2:30 p.m. 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 on 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) *Please wrap 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!

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!

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members! We're thrilled to welcome Steve & Jacki Sutter and Cheryl Hicks to our Community of Christ family!

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 get in touch with Matt Zwyer (Hope Choral director) at mzwyer@gmail.com or via 419-276-0032.



A Thanksgiving Blessing

Loving God, thank You for the many blessings in our lives—for family and friends, food and shelter, love and laughter, and the gift of each new day. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, fill our hearts with gratitude and remind us to share Your love and blessings with those around us. May we always recognize Your goodness in the big and little things and carry thankful hearts throughout the year.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

This Week at Community of Christ

Event	*Day and Time*
Confirmation @ Zion	Today, Sunday, November 22, 12:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Service	Today, Sunday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, November 24, 8:30 a.m.
Church Office Closed	**November 25, 26 & 27 – Happy Thanksgiving!**

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



Altar Flowers given by Teresa Loga in celebration of Aaron's Birthday! ✝️💔🙏











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!