Community of Christ Lutheran Church

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

THE GATHERING

Welcome Pastor Stephen Bond

Musical Prelude "Quiet Morning" E. Broughton (p. 20 Sept/Oct 05')
Mariana Steffan

Gathering Hymn "Soon and Very Soon" **ELW 439**

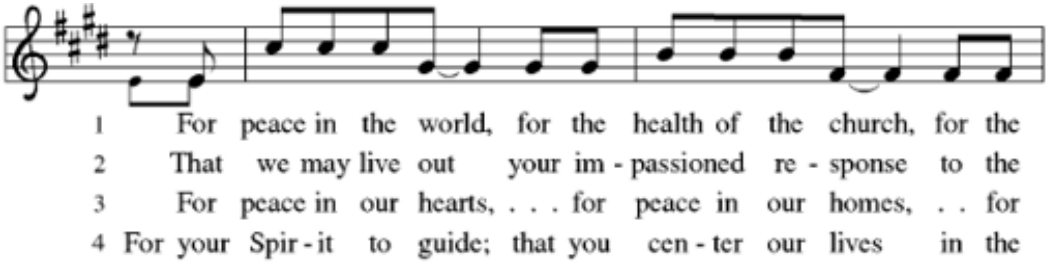
Greeting
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C And also with you.**

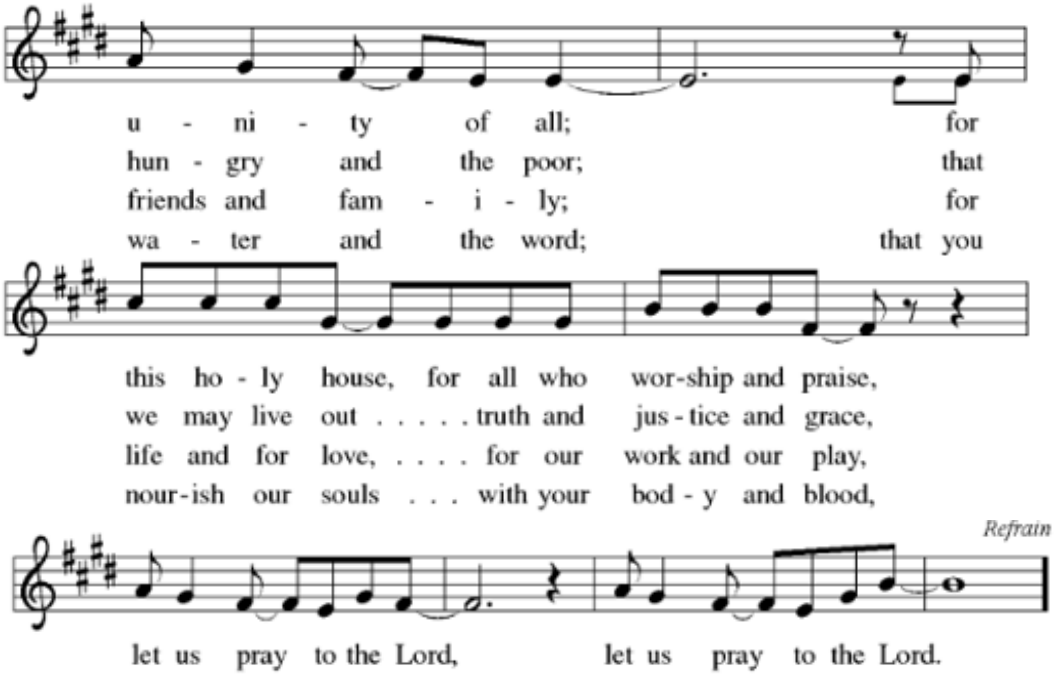
The congregation will sing the refrain only

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



The Pastor will sing the verses





Prayer of the Day

P O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Temple Talks *(8:00 a.m. – Laurie Mauro and 10:00 a.m. – Tina Baden)*

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

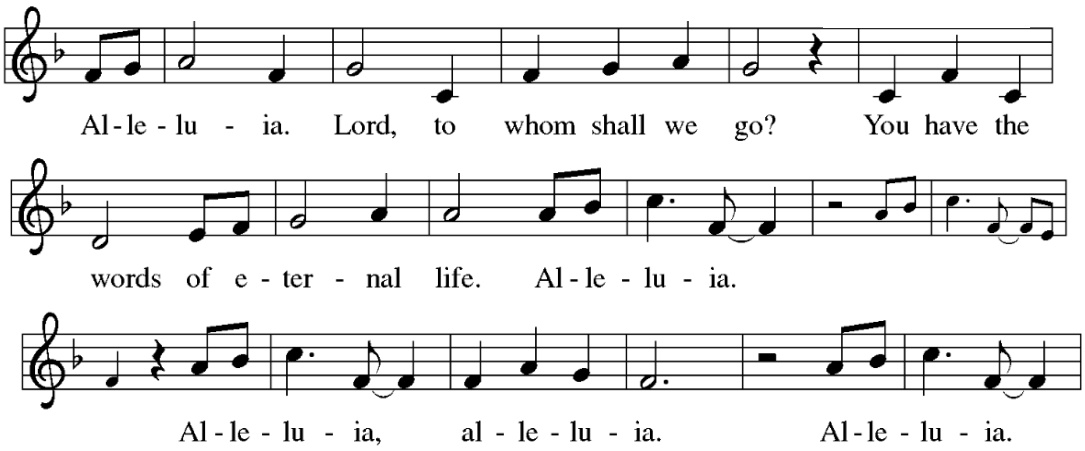
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

The Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have
died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we
believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with
him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that
we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means
precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with
the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from
heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and
so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these
words.

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





The Holy Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten
young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were
foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with
them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was
delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout,
'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young
women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some
of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be
enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for
yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who
were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later
the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied,
'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither
the day nor the hour."

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

Sermon *"Even Without Accessories"* *Pastor Steve Bond*

Hymn "My Lord, What a Morning" **ELW 438**

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 illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

AM You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. *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, Alexis & Zac Shoup, Phyllis Sturgeon, Vince Tavitian, Evan Vogel, Molly Wachtmann, Kathryn Whitacre, Mike…*** and all others whom we remember in silence. Grant us your salvation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

AM You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. 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.

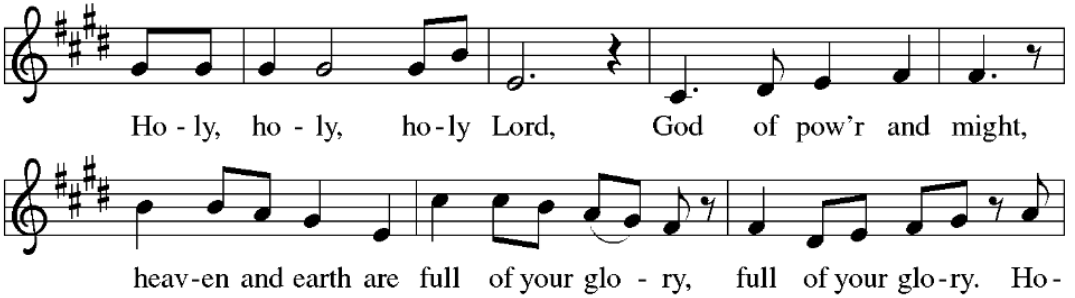
Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

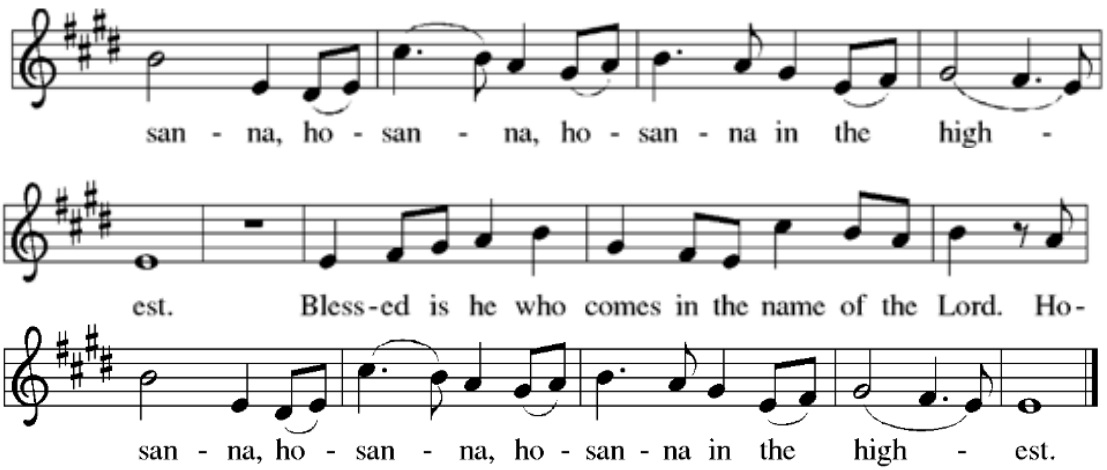
Offertory

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

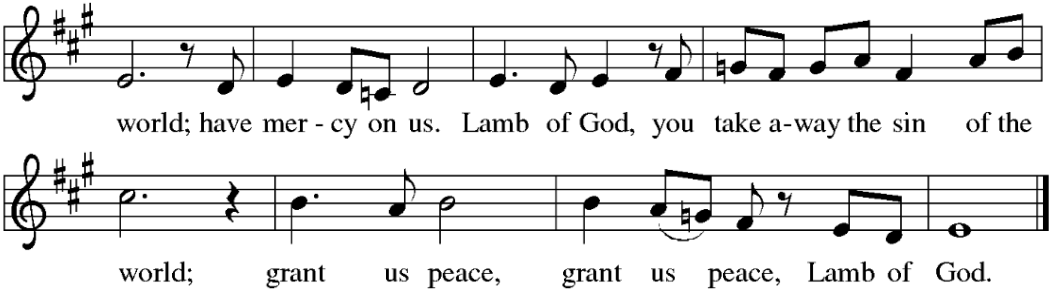
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink,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





"In The Singing" **ELW 466**

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 "Blessed Assurance" **ELW 638**

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

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"Making Jesus Known"

You're Invited! Join us for worship each Sunday at our two services, one at 8:00 am and one at 10:00—either in person or via Facebook Live at 10:00 am. We'd love to see you there, and don't forget to bring a friend! Interested in becoming a member? Just fill out your information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We'd be honored to welcome you into our church family!



Event	*Day and Time*
Confirmation Class @ CoC	Today, Sunday, November 8, 12:30 p.m.
Whitehouse Library Tea Fundraiser	Today, Sunday, November 8, 1:00 p.m.
Youth Group @ Providence	Today, Sunday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.
Christian Education	Monday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study	Tuesday, November 10, 8:30 a.m.
Worship & Sing-along @ Blue Creek	Tuesday, November 10, 10:00 a.m.
Concert	Tuesday, November 10, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council Meeting	Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.
Church Office Closed	**Wednesday, November 11**
Chancel Choir	Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study	Thursday, November 12, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.
FaithLab	Saturday, November 14, 5:00 p.m.
Trivia Night	Saturday, November 14, 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 9:00 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 this fall!

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 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 on Nov. 22 As part of our ongoing collaboration with neighboring congregation Hope United Methodist Church, Community of Christ will host a Community Thanksgiving Service, open to all in the community, on the evening of Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. Join us with folks from across congregations and in our wider community as we give thanks to God for the blessings of this life, and as we pause before the busyness of big meals, traveling relatives, and football games to stop with awe, gratitude, and praise to the Giver of all

good gifts. This is a great event to bring a friend, neighbor, or relative to share with! See you here on Sunday, Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m.!

Faith Lab: God Turns Bad into Good Last month at Faith Lab, we explored Noah's story and learned that just as God saved Noah and the animals, God saves us, too! This month, we'll continue exploring God's story as we hear about Joseph in Genesis 37 and discover how God can bring good even out of difficult situations. All children and young adults are invited to join us on Saturday, November 14, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. for an evening of food, faith, and fellowship. We'll share a meal, and while the kids enjoy songs, activities, and a craft, adults will have an opportunity to connect and reflect on Scripture. Faith Lab gives families a chance to grow in faith, build relationships, and discover God's love together. Please email the church office to RSVP or for more information. We hope to see you there!

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

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



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

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

Trivia Night! The Fellowship Committee is hosting a Trivia night. Rick Yokum, the Trivia Master, will ask the questions and keep score (so that you know who to butter up). We will split up into teams; you may bring your own team if you would like. **When**: NOV. 14th, Sat., 7 p.m. **Who**: ADULTS ready for a good time. **What**: TRIVIA **Where**: Susan and Dean Nofzinger 's 6637 E Blue Prairie, Whitehouse, OH

43571 **Why**: Fun, bragging rights, and prizes. Please bring a snack to share and a beverage of your choice!

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 watch for the sign up sheet on the kiosk.



Altar Flowers given by Marlene LaChine
In memory of her husband, Bill! †❤️🙏

