



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
18th Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday,
September 22, 2024, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Allemande” by J.S. Bach

Eric Dickey

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first, we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace, you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

ELW 389

VS 3 low voices – VS 4 high voices

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

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,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

P O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

Anthem

“Make a Joyful Noise”

Choir

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸ It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹ But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰ But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

The Second Reading: James 3:13---4:3, 7-8a

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹ Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a} Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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: Mark 9:30-37

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

³⁰ [Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms,

he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

Sermon

"The Way Up Is Down"

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781

The Apostle’s 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

P Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Larry Geer, Troy Bernhard, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Jack Miller, Fred Ortner, Andy Mehl, Tom Szor, Flo Hannum....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A “gluten-free” host option is available upon request as well.

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.

The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.

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

Offering Prayer

AM Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

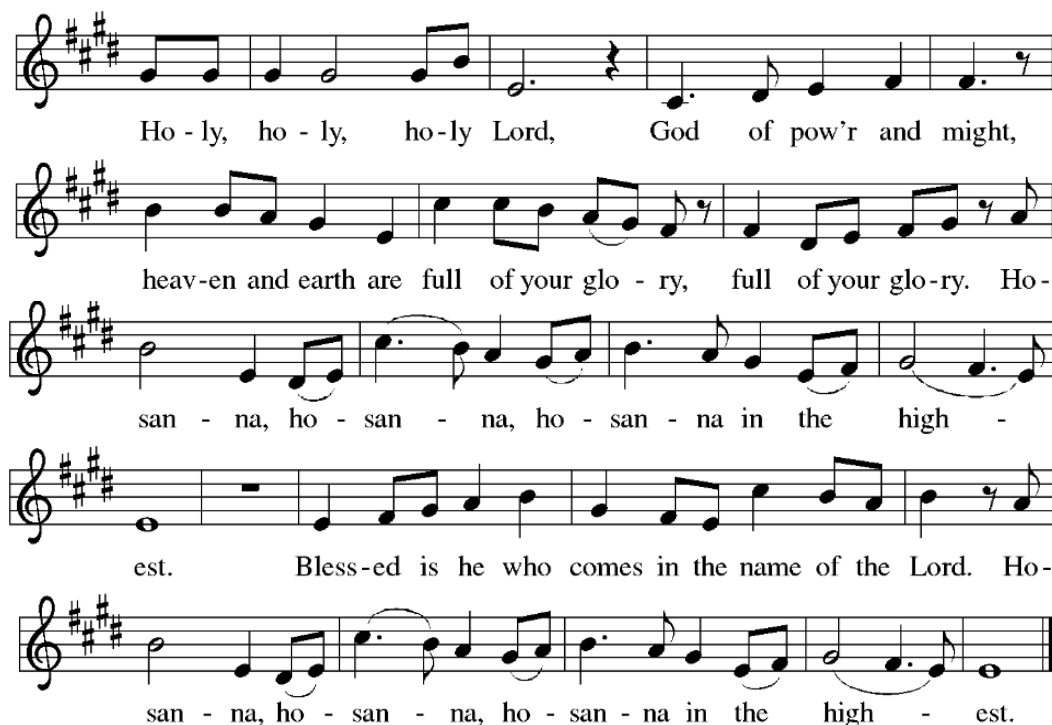
P Lift up your hearts.

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.

****The 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

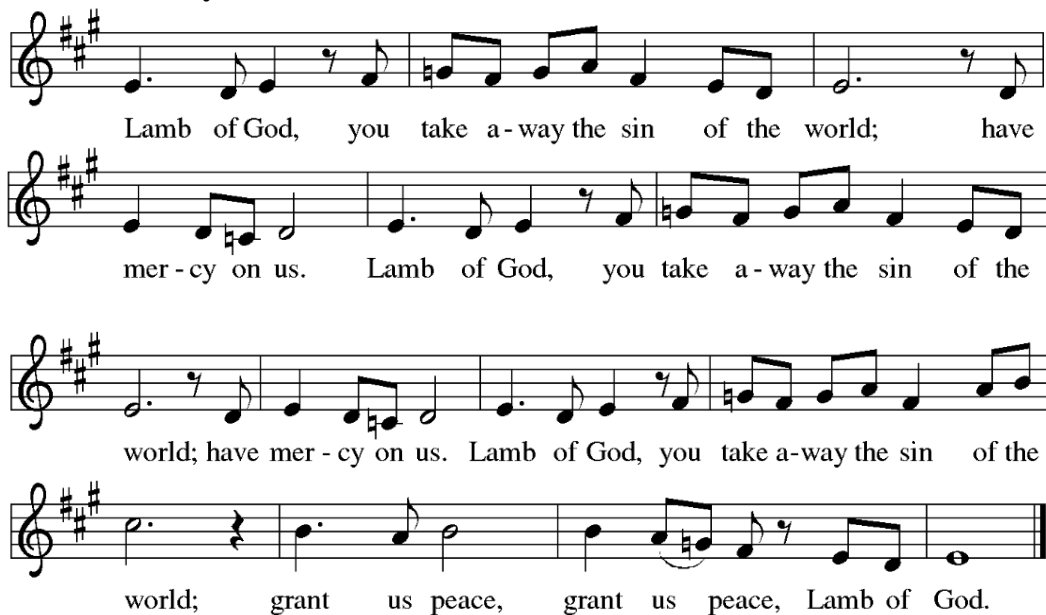
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,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

Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me!”

ELW 595

“On Eagle’s Wings”

ELW 787

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P God all mighty, God most merciful ✝ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW 765

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Worship SERVICES

“Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Community of Christ! Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning! **TODAY** we are back with our **TWO** Worship Services, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m. Join us in between for Sunday School! Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., for adults and kids of all ages. Join us as we resume our regular rhythm! See you next week and don't forget to Bring a Friend!!



*****ATTENTION Members and Friends*****
SPONSORED WEEKENDS HAVE NOT
BEEN TURNED IN***

If you have sponsored a weekend for Altar Flowers and have not turned in your envelope(s) please do so no later than the Sunday before that weekend so this can be shared in the bulletin. Thank you ✝

**Altar Flowers are given by Eunice Kronberg in
memory of Jim Kronberg ❤**

Sunday Morning Adult Forum Series

Join US for our Adult Bible Series, "Held in Trust," intended to help us see our whole lives in response to God's goodness. We will meet between services (from about 9:15-9:45 a.m.) in the library. This is a six-part series looking at everything as a gift of God, and our role as stewards of those gifts. Beyond just thinking about "how we raise money to pay the church's bills," we'll be exploring a whole-life perspective that sees our time, our talents, our treasures, and creation itself as gifts held in trust, for which we are caregivers. Over these weeks, we'll gain a new perspective on everything in our lives, with a look at both biblical ideas of stewardship and practical connections for our daily lives. In today's session, we will learn about the —*Gardeners of the World: Caretaking for Creation*. Upcoming sessions to include - *Sep. 29—For the Sake of the Body: Tapping Our Talents, Oct. 6—Where Our Treasure Is: Rethinking Money and Faith, Oct. 13—Stewards of Time: Making the Most of Each Day Oct. 20—Unexpected Gifts: Offering Our Weaknesses*

New Bible Study Series: "Freed... For Love" Explores Galatians!

We live in a culture where ads promise us great deals and promotions for "free," but they always come with fine print, conditions, or limits. What if the Good News of Jesus were different, and we really were freed without a catch--what if we were freed... FOR LOVE? That's the question at the heart of Paul's letter to the Galatians, and it's where our Thursday Bible Study series will take us. Starting right now, you can join us in person at 1:00 p.m. at Community of Christ for a deep dive into an important letter of the New Testament and the BIG questions like, "What puts me in the right relationship with God?" or "How does Jesus welcome outsiders?" and "What am I freed FOR in my life?" Everybody is welcome, and if you can't make a session in person, you can catch up online with our weekly video summary sessions which you can find on our Facebook page and YouTube. Come check out what it means to be freed... for love!

Welcome Table Wednesdays

Please join us, children, families, and adults for our second Welcome Table Wednesday! Dinner will be open to all from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Then at 7:00 p.m., we have activities that are especially geared for kids and families, with music, stories, crafts, and games. It's open to everyone, too! *(Of course, if you are here for CHOIR bring your kiddos along as this is a great chance for them to do fun and faithful activities with music, art, stories, and games while you SING!)* We wrap up by 8:00 p.m. so you will have the rest of your evenings after that! Please sign up each week

if you plan to attend so we know how many to expect! Thank you and see you there!

Property Announcement - Dear Members and Friends, The Property Committee has recently faced a few challenges. We've had to replace the air conditioner in the Fellowship Hall and repair a leak in the roof. These unexpected expenses have significantly reduced our Capital Improvement Fund. To help replenish our fund, we kindly ask that you consider directing any extra offerings to the Capital Improvement Fund. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated as we work to maintain and improve our beautiful church. Thank you for your continued support and contributions. Blessings, the Property Committee

The Ladies Lunch will be at Brandywine Restaurant on September 27th @ 11:30 a.m. located at 6904 Salisbury Rd. Maumee, Oh 43537. It is located on the grounds of the Brandywine Country Club. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. Questions? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319

The Roche de Boeuf Parade is the cornerstone of the Roche de Boeuf Festival. Local bands and organizations make their way through downtown Waterville as a kickoff to the festival. As another way of celebrating 50 years of making Jesus known in Whitehouse, Ohio, Community of Christ Lutheran Church is participating in this year's parade! Saturday, September 28, line-up time will be between 9:00-9:30 a.m. If you wish to help celebrate and walk in this year's parade, please sign up at the kiosk!!!

Curious about choir?

Come check out the choir on Wednesday nights from 7-8 as we prepare for singing during the services on 10.13, 10.27, 11.24, 12.8, and 12.22. More information on the kiosk.

Community of Christ Hosts Blessing of the Animals--October 5th, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Animals are one of the wonders of God's creation, and our pets are especially dear to us as members of our households and families. So, this fall, Community of Christ is offering a chance to participate in the tradition of having a Blessing of the Animals as a way of offering specific thanks to God for our pets and asking for God's blessing on them. If you would like to bring your pet for this experience, we'll be offering a window of time when you can come to the front door of the church building (the doors with the benches) and Pastor Steve will offer prayers of blessing, as well as a special tag that can go on a leash or collar as a

reminder of God's love and care for all creatures. The blessing of individual pets doesn't take long (pets tend not to like to sit through long sermons), but you can come anytime between 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. outside the main entrance to the church. Bring your dog, cat, rabbit, turtle, or whatever other creatures you like, and we'll have a one-on-one chance to give thanks to God for them and to ask God's blessing on them as well, any time during that hour. We hope you'll take a moment to bring your pets and give thanks to God for the companionship and love they bring into our lives!

Worship Services

Available on the net

at www.commofchrist.org

OR you can use your cell phone camera to access our website with our QR code!



**What's Happening
This Week?**



Ladies Bible Study
Tuesday, September 24
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, September 24
Welcome Table Wednesday
Wednesday, September 25
Choir Practice
Wednesday, September 25
Thursday Bible Study
Thursday, September 26
Bell Choir
Thursday, September 26
Ladies Lunch
Friday, September 27
Roche de Boeuf Parade
Saturday, September 28
Festival of Talents Weekend
Saturday, September 28 & 29