



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 10, 2024, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Stephen C. Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Overture” From Fireworks Suite by G.F. Handel

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, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end. **Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy, **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.**

These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are ✝ forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again and rejoice in your salvation. **Amen.**

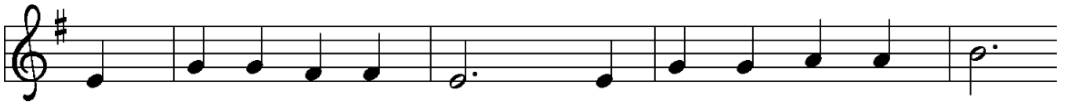
**Gathering Hymn**

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

**ELW 707**

**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.**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**P Amen.**

### **Childrens Sermon**

## **THE READINGS**

### **The First Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16**

<sup>8</sup>The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup>“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”  
<sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup>But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied, and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” <sup>15</sup>She went and did as



<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

**Sermon**

*"The Eye of the Beholder"*

*Pastor Stephen Bond*

**Hymn**

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

**ELW 583**

**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** Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for justice in our bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders (*local church leaders may be named*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small and strengthen us in our pursuit of climate justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation's veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts and pursue peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Larry Geer, Luke Holtz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Martina Benton, Janet Dellinger, Jake Cope, Isaac Evans, Tom Szor, Debbie Carman, Alexis, Eli & baby Bibler, Cory Kaczor, Carolyn, Paxton Tuohy, Denny Masters, Nate Yokum, Bob Preston ...** and all those we remember in silence. Accompany persons who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are in foster care, and those who live alone. Watch over and uphold them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**AM** Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness. Bless our ministries that attend to basic needs of any who lack sufficient resources, that all may live with dignity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**

**AM** Happy are those whose help was in you. We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**P** We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through 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** Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. **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-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, 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”



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## Hymn

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679

“Day by Day”

ELW 790

## Post Communion Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

**AM** Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### *Milestones & Announcements:*

#### **The Blessing**

**P** The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

“Blessed Assurance”

**ELW 638**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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

## “Making Jesus Known”

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!!** We are pleased to WELCOME you on this weekend! We pray that the scriptures and sacrament richly bless you today! If you are visiting Community of Christ, we want to extend a very warm welcome to you! We would ask our visitors to complete the visitor card in the friendship pad. If there is some way, we can serve you, please let us know!

**We WELCOME YOU** to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you and as always **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**



**Altar Flowers are given by Marlene LaChine in  
memory of her husband, Bill LaChine ❤️**

**New Adult Sunday School Series: “*On the Other Hand...*” When the Bible Offers Multiple Perspectives** What do we do when one Bible verse says one thing, and another verse seems to say another? When we die, are we waiting for a future resurrection, or are we immediately with God right away? How do we understand the times when Jesus takes a law from the Old Testament and then says, “But I say to you” and adds something different? Maybe you’ve found yourself asking questions like these, or others where you didn’t know what to do with the tension we sometimes hear within the different voices of the Bible. How do we know what to do, and how do we make sense of the Bible when we seem to be dealing with writers who say different things? And when I come across those in the Bible, should I be worried... confused... afraid... or relieved? Let’s explore some of these kinds of situations together in a new series for the late fall in our Adult Sunday School forum (meeting in the fellowship hall from about 9:10-9:50), which we’re calling, “*On the Other Hand...*” We’ll do some case study exploration of times when different Bible passages seem to point in different directions on the same subject, and different ways that we might understand what’s going on in them. The goal is not just to better understand these individual passages or issues, but to grow as Bible readers to become better at wrestling blessings from the texts where we are convinced God is speaking to us through ancient voices. Join us for this series, between our 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services, running through November 24!

**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!

**Ladies Bible Study** starting November 5th, we will study Kristi McLelland's, "Luke in the Land". This seven-week video with a study guide allows us to explore the land of Israel based on the Gospel of Luke. We will explore Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus. Along the way, we'll see how Jesus brought His kingdom to earth for everybody. Please sign up at the kiosk. Plus be sure to order the study guide 'Luke in the Land'. The class will start @ 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Any questions? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319

**Community of Christ Lutheran Church Concert Committee Presents a Benefit Organ Recital** November 24, 2024, 6517 Finzel Rd, Whitehouse, OH. We are thrilled to invite you to an Organ Recital featuring four talented performers on our piano and organ on Sunday, November 24, at 3:00 p.m. This benefit concert will support hurricane relief for Hurricanes Helene and Milton through Lutheran Disaster Relief, as well as contribute to our Building Fund as we work to pay down our loan for the addition that created our sanctuary, gathering space, and offices. Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music featuring Eric Dickey, Jacob Henry, Kate Philabaum, and Pam Stover. We would love for you to join us and bring a friend!

**Social Action Ministry Seeks YOUR Help and Ideas in Loving Neighbors!**  
In the rest of this calendar year, there will be several ways you can help Community of Christ to serve and care for neighbors near and far (read more in these pages about our Angel Tree gifts for neighbors near Salem Lutheran in the North End and our return to adopting residents at Luther Home of Mercy for Christmas presents, too)! But along with these seasonal projects and partnerships like meals at Salem, collections for migrant workers, gardening help with Urban Wholistics, blood drives, and our school kits for Lutheran World Relief, we are looking at new projects and needs to help within our community. So, we would LOVE your help, ideas, and contributions as we reboot our Social Action Ministry here at Community of Christ. Join us for our next meeting on **Wednesday, November 20** at **10:00 a.m.**, or if you can't make that date and time, see Pastor Steve or Sarah Rockwell ([sarahrockwell0822@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrockwell0822@gmail.com)) to find out how you can plug into this important work to love our neighbors!



**December Newsletter Articles:** Although the November newsletter has just been sent out, with the Thanksgiving holiday, our Annual Meeting, and the start of Advent in early December, we kindly ask that all newsletter articles, photos, announcements, or any additional content be submitted no later than **Friday, November 15**. We greatly appreciate your understanding and timely support!

### **Why NOW is the right time to check out the choir**

The holiday season is fast approaching. If you want to make Advent especially meaningful to you and your church, consider singing with the church choir just for November and December. The time commitment is minimal, and the reward of feeling connected to the true meaning of Christmas is maximum! Starting on Wednesday, Nov 20, from 7-8, we will rehearse for the holiday season and our singing schedule is as follows:

- Christ the King Sunday, Nov 24, 10:00 a.m.
- 2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m.
- 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec 22, 10:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 11:00 p.m. Sing for as many or as few of the above dates as you are available. We would love you to join us in the choir loft when it works for you!

## **ANNUAL** CONGREGATIONAL **MEETING**

**Mark Your Calendars!** Our congregation will host an *annual meeting* on **Sunday, December 8**, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will receive the proposed budget for 2025 and elect four members for the church council. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Thank you!

# CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

**\*\*Announcement: Deadline for Annual Meeting Reports\*\*** Attention Committee Chairs and Council Liaisons: Please note that, due to the timing of annual report components and the way the November/December calendar falls, plus Michelle's upcoming vacation in early December, all annual committee reports should be submitted to the church office by **Tuesday, November**

**12.** Your reports should summarize the key accomplishments of your committee over the past year and your goals and objectives for the upcoming year. To make this easier, you can copy and paste highlights from your previous month's reports. Additionally, please include your committee's description or mission, the chairperson's name, and a list of committee members. If you have any questions or need a template for your report, please get in touch with Michelle at [secretary@commofchrist.org](mailto:secretary@commofchrist.org). Thank you!



**It's that wonderful time of year!** We invite you and your family to dedicate a poinsettia to honor a loved one. Please fill out your envelope (available on the table in the gathering space or at the back of the church) and submit your payment today! 😊 You can pick up your flowers after our 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Thank you!  
Poinsettia Order: \$10.00 per plant. You can choose from Pink, Red, or White.

**\*\*To meet our supplier's deadline, all orders are due today, Sunday, November 10, 2024.\*\***

**We still need 25 more poinsettias to reach our goal! Will you help us make it happen?**



**\*\*Adopt a Resident at the Lutheran Home of Mercy!\*\***  
This holiday season, many of our seniors who reside in nursing care centers may not have family nearby. You can help spread love and joy by adopting a resident! We currently have 20 seniors 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: \*\* Gift Submission Deadline: **\*\* Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**\*\*Please do NOT WRAP gifts as they need to be inventoried. Instead, please place it in a Christmas gift bag!\*\*****

**\*\*Shopping Lists: \*\*** Keep your eye out for the list in the gathering area at the large tolling bulletin board. Thank you for showing love and kindness as Jesus teaches us! Let's make this holiday season special for our seniors.



**SAVE THE DATE!** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Caroling event will be on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. 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! The words for the carols will be provided so no need to

worry about not knowing the words. Start time is currently being worked out and after spreading Christmas joy we'll share in some holiday cheer with pizza and snacks at the Swagler home. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

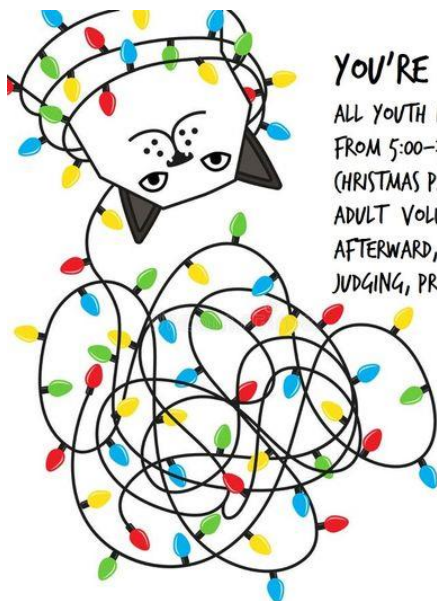


Community Thanksgiving  
Service  
November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
Hope United Methodist Church  
10610 Waterville St.  
Whitehouse, Ohio  
  
in partnership with  
neighboring congregations  
as we give thanks to God  
together

Before the turkey is thawing and the table settings are placed, we want to invite you to join with neighbors from Hope United Methodist, Community of Christ, and the wider community for a service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 24, at 7:00 p.m. If you're already joining us for the Organ Recital at Community of Christ that afternoon, that still gives you plenty of time for a leisurely dinner and then to gather



and join in worship, thanks, and praise in this joint venture between our congregations. This is another great event to invite a friend or bring your family members to, as we give thanks to God for all that we have in our lives!



## YOU'RE INVITED... TO A CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT!

ALL YOUTH IN 5TH-12TH GRADES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH FROM 5:00-7:00 P.M. FOR A FUN YOUTH EVENT INCLUDING A SCAVENGER HUNT AND CHRISTMAS PARTY. WE WILL MEET AT HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT 5 P.M. AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS WILL DRIVE GROUPS AROUND FOR THE SCAVENGER HUNT. AFTERWARD, WE WILL MEET BACK AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR JUDGING, PRIZES, PIZZA, AND THE MAKING OF A GIANT ANDY SALAD!

What: Christmas Scavenger Hunt

Who: all youth in grades 5-12  
friends are welcome!

When: Sunday, Dec. 12, 5:00-7:00pm

Where: **start** at Hope United Methodist  
(10610 Waterville St., Whitehouse)  
**end** at Community of Christ Lutheran  
(6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse)

How do I sign up? Use this QR code to RSVP  
by Friday, Dec. 13!



**What:** Christmas Scavenger Hunt

**Who:** all youth in grades 5-12 friends are welcome!

**When:** Sunday, Dec. 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Start at Hope United Methodist (10610 Waterville St., Whitehouse) end at Community of Christ Lutheran (6517 Finzel Road, Whitehouse)

**How do I sign up?** Use this link or QR code to RSVP on our Sign-Up Genius:

[Youth Christmas Scavenger Hunt](#)



**Worship Services**  
Available on the net  
at [www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org)  
OR you can use your cell phone camera to  
access our website with our QR code!



## What's Happening This Week?



<b>Church Office Closed</b>
Monday, November 11
<b>Christian Education</b>
Monday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.
<b>LWR Quilt ministry</b>
Tuesday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Concert Committee</b>
Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Council Meeting</b>
Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Pastor's Bible Study</b>
Thursday, November 14, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Bell Choir</b>
Thursday, November 14, 7:00 p.m.



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!