



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**  
**January 12, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Stephen C. Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude  
**10:00 a.m.**

“Sheep May Safely Graze” by J.S. Bach  
“Elshadai”

Eric Dickey  
Solo, Ann Heban

**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 creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, so that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

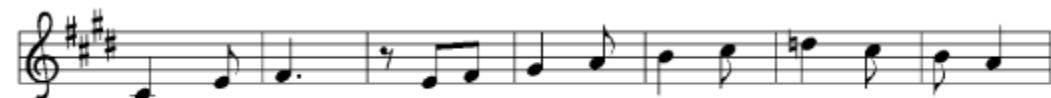
**ELW 423**

## 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.**



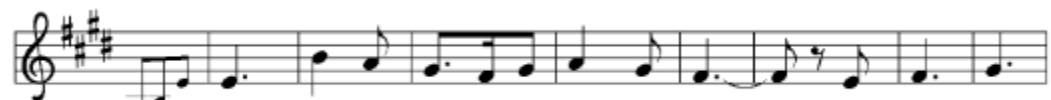
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



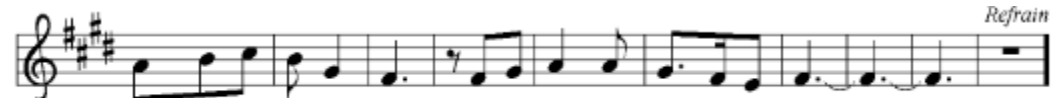
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **P Amen.**

### Childrens Sermon

**Anthem (10:00 a.m.)**

“Trinitarian Blessing”

Solo, Ann Heban

## THE READINGS

### The First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, “Give them up,”  
and to the south, “Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.

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

### **The Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

### **The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

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

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with

the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

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

**Sermon**

*"You Are Mine"*

*Pastor Stephen Bond*

**Hymn**

“You Are Mine”

**ELW 581**

**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**

**P** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** Your promise to go with us through the waters and in the fire. Protect those who are endangered by ice storms and blizzards in these days. Guard those in the path of wildfires and those fighting them, especially in California. And strengthen those who are still rebuilding after hurricanes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges, and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Larry Geer, Luke Holtz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Martina Benton, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Jerry Reed, Jim Ayres, Paula Gruhler, Virginia Dillon, Becky King....** and all those we remember in silence. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named especially, Jeannette Schaible and Barb Atkinson. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**P** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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 (10:00 a.m.) *please be seated*

“Psalm of Hope”

Solo, Ann Heban

### Offering Prayer

AM God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It is divided into sections for the Presider and the Congregation. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *ritard.* and *ritard.*

*Presider:* The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with

*Presider:* you. *Congregation:* Lift up your hearts. We

lift them to the Lord. *ritard.* Let us give

*Congregation:* thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

**\*\*The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**

## HOLY

*Congregation:*

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. 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.**





## THE SENDING

### *Milestones & Announcements:*

#### **The Blessing**

**P** The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

**ELW 543**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

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

# “Making Jesus Known”

**Welcome to Community of Christ!** Our family welcomes you to the house of the Lord today! We ask God to bless His Holy Word and Sacrament today so that his people might receive strength for living out our days! If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Community of Christ!

**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!!!!**

## **Thursday Bible Study Series “Things Seen and Unseen”**

Our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, co-led between Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie, exploring angels and other spiritual beings in the Bible, what we do (and don’t!) know about them, and what difference their existence makes in our lives. Have you ever been curious about what angels look like, or where some people get the idea of “guardian” angels from? Don’t know your “cherubim” from your “seraphim”? Wonder why the first words out of the angels’ mouths in the Bible are so often, “Do not be afraid!”? ***This session will conclude on January 16.*** Join us as we explore Things Seen and Unseen: An Introduction to Angels in our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Room. If you need handouts from past sessions, see Pastor Steve or Vicar Natalie, and you can always check out our video summaries for each session on the church’s Facebook page! We’d love to have you around the table as we explore *things seen and unseen!*

## **When God Breaks the Rules: A Thursday Afternoon Bible Study**

We often picture God as the Giver of Rules and the Maker of Laws (including, obviously, the ones literally written in stone like the Ten Commandments). But what about the times in the Bible when God does a new thing, moves in a new direction, or expands the old order of the world? What about when God *breaks* the rules? That’s what we’re going to be looking at in our next Thursday afternoon Bible Study series, starting this January and running through the end of March, in a new original ten-part study that Pastor Steve is calling *When God Breaks the Rules*. We’ll see how God overturned the customs and traditions of the day from the earliest stories in our Bible to times when Jesus broke with the inherited traditions of the Respectable Religious Teachers of his day, to the movement of the New Testament era church as the Spirit led the first Christians across lines and borders to the ends of the earth with Jesus’ love. Join us starting **Thursday, January 23,**

**at 1:00 p.m.** in the council room and running through March 27 for a ten-week journey in the expansive, surprising, and often rebellious ways of God! Everybody is welcome, and we would love to know if you are coming, so we would invite you to sign up at the kiosk so we can be ready for all who plan to attend!

### **Adult Sunday School Series: “Jesus—The Wonder Years”**

What would it have been like to raise the child Jesus? Have you ever wondered what Jesus’ childhood was like, or why there are so few stories from that part of his life? And with the handful of stories we do have from the Bible, what do they mean and why do they matter for our lives? In our new series for our Sunday morning Adult Class, we will spend time looking at important episodes from the early life of Jesus across the gospels, in what we do—and don’t—know. Join us for these conversations from 9:15-9:45 a.m. (between services) on Sunday mornings:

- Jan. 12—The Visitation of the Magi and Epiphany
- Jan. 19—Jesus the Refugee and the Flight into Egypt
- Jan. 26—The Presentation in the Temple, Part 1
- Feb. 2—The Presentation, Part 2 (Simeon and Anna)
- Feb. 9—No Class—Congregational Breakfast in the fellowship hall
- Feb. 16—the Child Jesus in the Temple

Join us for any or all of these studies on Sunday mornings here at Community of Christ this January and February!

**The 2025 offering envelopes** are now available on the table in the hallway! These envelopes cover weekly offerings as well as special services like Lenten Wednesdays, Holy Week, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, and more. If you have any questions about how to complete your weekly offering or are unable to locate your envelopes, please feel free to reach out to the church office. For those who prefer to give electronically, we offer the Simply Giving option, which allows for automatic withdrawals from your account. For more details, please contact Michelle at [secretary@commofchrist.org](mailto:secretary@commofchrist.org). **Thank you for your generous support of the Lord's work at Community of Christ and beyond!**

### **Monthly Singing Visit to Blue Creek Nursing Home – January 14 at 10:00 a.m.**

Each month, volunteers from Community of Christ come together to visit Blue Creek Nursing Home (11239 Waterville Street, Whitehouse) for a special time of singing, prayer, and fellowship on the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. The visit lasts about 30 minutes, and we would love you to join us and brighten the day of the residents! If you enjoy singing, we welcome your participation! Come, meet us at

Blue Creek at 10:00 a.m. on January 14, or for more information, please contact Cinda Pontsler, Cheryl Fischer, or Pastor Steve.

### **Social Action Ministry Meets January 13 at 10:00 a.m.**

Our re-energized and reorganized Social Action Ministry is meeting on January 13 as we plan out events, causes, and ministries for the year, and we would LOVE your voice and presence around the table! After Christmas time collections for Salem Lutheran area youth and the Luther Home of Mercy, we're ready to look forward to new directions and important new ministries getting started in Northwestern Ohio that we can partner with, as well as long-standing agencies that we can support in new ways. We are exploring a partnership with a new foster-care support ministry called Isaiah 117 House that is getting started in the Toledo area, and we are also looking at new ways to connect with Genacross in their work with both at-risk youth and low-income seniors in the area, too. We would love your input, your presence, and your passion to help us serve and love neighbors through the Social Action Ministry! Come to our January meeting to see if this might be a place where you can share your gifts and channel your energy!

### **2025 Altar Flower Sponsorships Now Available**

The 2025 Altar Flower sponsorship weekends are now open for selection. Tags and envelopes are available in the hallway to the left as you enter through the front doors. For office tracking, once you've chosen your weekend, *please leave the tag on the bulletin board, do not take it home.* To ensure your sponsorship is included in the bulletin, payment envelopes must be submitted by Sunday prior to your selected weekend. For any questions, please contact the church office. Your support is truly appreciated—thank you!



**Altar  
Flowers**  
Ministry Opportunity

**Altar Flowers are given by Bev Fischer  
in memory of Donie ♥♥**

## **Join Us for Conversation and More!**

Starting this February, we invite you to gather at the church with both old and new friends for a variety of fun activities:

- Catch up and connect with others
- Enjoy drinks and light snacks
- Play games and cards (euchre, anyone?)
- Team up for jigsaw puzzle challenges
- Lend a hand with Visitation Ministry projects
- Get some light exercise with a walk through the halls
- Share your ideas for future activities

Feel free to bring a neighbor or a friend—more people means more fun!

### **Dates:**

- February 11th, 1-3 PM
- February 21st, 1-3 PM

Don't worry if you miss the sign-up—you're still welcome to join! Sign up at the kiosk or contact the office with any questions. We can't wait to see you there!



**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>Social Action</b>
Monday, January 13, 10:00 a.m.
<b>Christian Education</b>
Monday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Concert Committee</b>
Tuesday, January 14, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Church Council</b>
Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Outreach</b>
Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Pastor's Bible Study</b>
Thursday, January 9, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Bell Choir</b>
Thursday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.
<b>AW Youth Planning Meeting</b>
Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Church Office Closed</b>
Monday, January 20



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!