



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Django”

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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

ELW 522

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

P Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

- ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

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

The Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The Holy Gospel: John 12:1-8

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

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Bond

Hymn

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

ELW 583

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

AM The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O'Konski, Luke Holtz, Susie Donnal, Lisa Boltz, Ron Hetherwick, Martina Benton, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Virginia Dillon, Sam Kenney, Sandy McPherson, Jason Rupp, Carol Mason, Jim Anaple, Maury Barden, LuAnn Tipton, Judy Clark, Kelly, Damien, Phillip, Linda Baker, Ellie Knape, Nathan Dipillo, Amy Meagher, Eric Lewis, Staci....** and all that we remember in silence. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

AM The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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 Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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.**

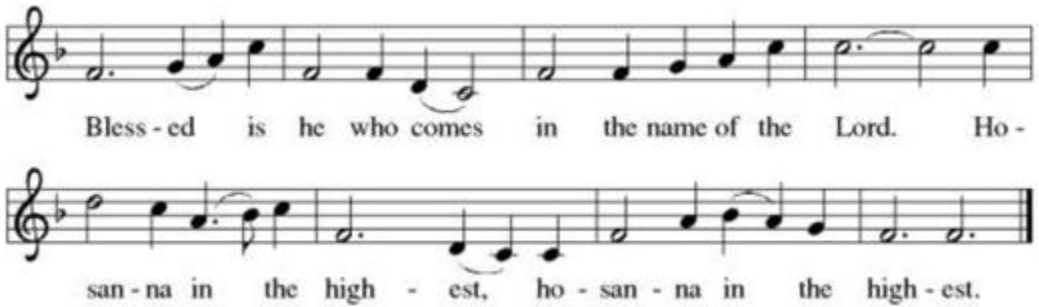
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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-ered 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.

Post Communion Blessing**Prayer after Communion**

AM Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

P Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick or homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING***Milestones & Announcements:*****The Blessing**

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"God's Work, Our Hands"

ACS 1000

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Making Jesus Known”

You're invited to join us for worship at one of our TWO services, either at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. You can attend in person or tune in via Facebook Live. We can't wait to see you – and feel free to BRING A FRIEND! Interested in becoming a member? Please fill out the information in the friendship pads or call the church office at 419-877-0607. We would love to welcome you into our church family!

New Thursday Bible Study Series Begins April 24: The Book of Judges

After taking a break for Holy Week with the conclusion of our previous series, “When God Breaks the Rules,” our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study will resume with a new

series on April 24 at 1:00 p.m. with a look at the Old Testament book we call “Judges.” This interesting book explores the time in Israel’s history between the settling down in the land after the wilderness wanderings and the rise of kings like Saul and David, and it offers a window into what happens in a community when everyone is left to their own devices. The book of Judges also reminds us of God’s patient, enduring love even in the face of our persistent sin, so there is a word of hope and grace even through the worst periods of history, too! If this sounds like something you would like to learn more about, join us for the new series starting April 24 in the Council Room (where the Thursday Bible Study usually meets) at 1:00 p.m. to dig into the Word together!

Adult Forum this April: Imaging the Word Beginning this April (starting on April 13, Palm/Passion Sunday), our next series in the Sunday morning Adult Forum will be a series we’re calling *Imaging the Word: Symbols, Icons, and Art Connecting with Faith*. Running from about 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, we’ll explore some of the central symbols of the Christian faith, what they signify, where they come from, and how they have been used over the course of the last 2,000 years. We’ll also explore how traditions like the Eastern Orthodox churches make use of a particular stylized form of artistic depictions of biblical figures and stories in *icons*, and how to understand the way they use imagery to convey meaning. And we’ll also stick our toes in the world of art history and see how artists, sculptors, and painters have used visual media to connect to our faith, both in some familiar ways and some surprising ways. Join us for a multimedia experience this spring as we explore *Imaging the Word* together between our 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services!

Join us for our last Lenten Service and Soup Suppers, Wednesday, April 9. We invite you to a meaningful time of reflection and fellowship. The Lenten Wednesday services, at 7:00 p.m., will offer time for prayer during this sacred season. Before the service, we will gather for a warm and inviting Soup Supper starting at 6:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect as we journey together through Lent. Please sign up at the kiosk to let us know what you can bring. We look forward to sharing this special time with you!

The April Ladies Lunch will be @ the 'Sunset Bistro' 1220 W Wooster St A, Bowling Green OH 43402. We will be going on April 25th @ 11:30 a.m. Please sign up at the kiosk so reservations can be made. Hope to see you there and invite a friend. Questions? Call Becky King at 419-349-7319

Conversations and More - Save the Dates!

Join us for engaging conversations and more on the following dates:

- Monday, April 7 & Friday, April 25

- Monday, May 5 & Friday, May 30

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We'll be taking a summer break, but we'll be back with a lunch gathering on Tuesday, September 9th! Feel free to bring a friend along!



Altar
Flowers
Ministry Opportunity

Altar Flowers are given by Sandy Boehly in honor of
Kristen's Birthday! ♥♥

****Reminder! Today is the last day to order your Easter Lilies!****

Holy Week Services: Palm Sunday, April 13, 8 & 10 a.m., Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m. Good Friday, Friday, April 18, 7:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. @ Zion Waterville, Easter Sunday, April 20, 8 & 10:00 a.m.

Community of Christ Easter Egg Hunt Kids of ALL Ages! Join us on Easter Sunday, April 20, at 9:15 a.m. for our Easter Egg Hunt!! We will start in the Fellowship Hall!

**Saturday
April 12, 2025
7:00 - 9:00+**

**Community of Christ
Lutheran Church
6517 Finzel Road
Whitehouse, Ohio
419-877-0607**

A benefit dance for
Lutheran Disaster Response
& the church building fund.
Donation for tickets:
\$25 per person
\$40 per couple
available at the church office

Swingmania

Come ready to cut a
Fug in your finest
outfit from the 30's,
40's or 50's...
Poodle skirts, WWII,
saddle shoes...

or just listen to
some great
big band music



SILENT AUCTION ALSO
Auction proceeds benefit Genacross
Lutheran Social Services



**Swingmania, Burger Bar, and
Ticket/Silent Auction!
Get your TICKETS TODAY!!!!**



Eric Dickey's Jazz Passion will be performed this Sunday, TODAY!
At 5:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Swanton.



**WHITEHOUSE FIRE COMPANY
& STATION 85 FOUNDATION**

Code 3 Breakfast



**ADULT \$12
CHILD
(10 AND
UNDER)
\$6**

**Whitehouse American Legion
Sunday, April 13th, 2025
8am-12pm**

*Eggs made to order, hashbrowns, bacon, sausage,
pancakes, biscuits & gravy, coffee, milk, and orange juice*

2025 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Feb	\$12,909	\$12,563	\$346
YTD	\$31,021	\$29,626	\$1,395
2025 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Feb	\$27,750	\$40,378	(\$12,627)
YTD	\$65,408	\$74,853	(\$9,445)

Visitation Ministry
Monday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.
Conversations and More
Monday, April 7, 1:00 p.m.
Care Givers Meeting
Monday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.
Concert Committee
Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 p.m.
Church Council
Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.
Soup Supper
Wednesday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Wednesday Service
Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
Choir
Wednesday, April 9, 7:45 p.m.
AW Youth Community Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.
Burger Bar Dinner, Auction & Swingmania
Saturday, April 12, 5:00 p.m.