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419-877-0607 www.commofchrist.org COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH Making Jesus Known



April 2024

rom Pastor Steve Bond

Pastor's Letter: "Loose In the World"

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

You know, one of the things I love most about the stories we hear following Easter each year is how the risen Jesus never stays put in one place. (As Frederick Buechner once remarked, "Even the nails proved ineffective" at holding God down!) Jesus is always on the move—appearing outside the garden tomb to Mary, showing up behind locked doors where the disciples are huddled in fear, walking along the road to Emmaus and at the table with the broken bread, and at the sea while the distraught disciples go fishing. The risen Jesus doesn't stay put in the tomb, and he doesn't simply hold office hours in a single location, either. And the way the stories go, you almost get the impression that you could meet the living Jesus just about anywhere. Like the lyric from the Peter Mayer song goes, "Hey, hey, this mercy moves—God is loose, oh, God is loose in the world!" That's certainly how it is for the risen Jesus—there's no containing him!

I think that's what excites me, too, about these days at Community of Christ—the living Christ is present and moving through us in all sorts of directions. In just this month ahead, we're building FIFTY beds for kids in our community, finalizing plans for our big fiftieth anniversary celebration weekend (May 4-5), having a family game night, welcoming new members into the congregation, watching the skies for an eclipse, visiting members who are homebound, hosting a concert, offering a workshop through our Northwestern Ohio Synod to learn a new worship resource, and plenty more things along the way, too! God is loose in the world among us, and that's part of how we witness to Jesus' resurrection!

These are definitely signs of life among us, and this is an exciting time to be a part of Community of Christ! After all, when the Easter lilies have lost their bloom and the last of the Easter eggs have been opened and their treats gobbled up, the thing that lasts is the ongoing presence of Jesus, who is alive and keeps us moving. As you read through these pages and see some of the ways you can be a part of what God is up to here at Community of Christ, keep your eyes open for the living Jesus (as we say on Sunday mornings) because he is among us and on the loose!

Christ's Peace,

Pastor Steve



Join us on Facebook 10:00 a.m. or Live in person! 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

> Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:15 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.

Pastors Bible Study Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Children's Sunday School April 7, 9:00 a.m.

> Quilt Ministry April 2 & 16

Youth & Education April 8

Church Council April 9

Stewardship April 11

Book Club April 16

Worship Services Available on the net at www.commofchrist.org





Lenten Midweek Art Projects Come Together for Easter Vigil

On Wednesday evenings throughout Lent, we invited people to take part in a different creative project each week. Those pieces finally came together for the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, when those individual parts were revealed in their final forms. Thanks to your creativity and help we made a giant rainbow to remember the end of the Flood story, a mosaic lamb caught in a thicket for the conclusion of the story of Abraham offering Isaac on Mount Moriah, giant waves for the Red Sea crossing, and a depiction of Jesus made from the faces of some of our members. Thanks to all who helped to create these visual elements for the storytelling at the Easter Vigil, and for being willing to be creative this Lent!



Crazy Faith Talk Explores the Sacraments

Pastor Steve's weekly podcast with two colleague pastors, "Crazy Faith Talk," is a mix of conversation about faith, life, the Bible, theology, pop culture, and just about everything else. Earlier this spring, the series for Lent looked at modern-day "temptations" for the church (like the temptation to aspire to worldly power or to peddle prosperity theology), and now this spring we're starting a series exploring the sacraments. What is baptism all about, and how do different Christian traditions think about what happens in baptism? How about Holy Communion-how has the meal of Jesus been understood throughout the last two thousand years of church history, and why do we celebrate it today? We invite you to check out our weekly episodes, which release each Tuesday at noon—you can find them at www.blogtalkradio.com/crazyfaithtalk, through the links on our church Facebook page, or even by asking your smart speaker (like Amazon Echo/Alexa) to play the podcast, "Crazy Faith Talk." This is an easy-to-access way to connect with your faith and explore deeper questions than we might be able to get to in a Sunday sermon or Adult Class. Check out "Crazy Faith Talk" for free!



Worship Volunteer Schedule, April 2024



	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Nate Yokum	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 8:00	Zach Weber	Becky King	Irene Rang	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kevin Swagler
Camera 10:00	Rick Yokum	Carol Wiemken	Kevin Swagler	Neil Raymond
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Becky King	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Becky King
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Susan Raymond
Greeter 8:00 East	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 8:00 West	Linda Metcalf	Irene Rang	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 East	C & N Rilling	Dean Nofzinger	Marsha Cochran	Rob Kohntopp
Greeter 10:00 West	Volunteer needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp
Lector 8:00	Dana Schmidt	Kathryn Whitacre	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins
Lector 10:00	Nate Yokum	Greg Aubell	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Kathryn Whitacre	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 10:00	Kara Yokum	Dean Nofzinger	Don Schroeder	Marlene LaChine
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

***Should you need to cancel your scheduled date, please contact another volunteer to fill your position and time slot. Also, cancel in Sign-Up Genius so the person covering you can sign up.

Lectors: The readings are available for preview on our website at <u>www.commofchrist.org</u> under "Worship and Bulletins" and then the appropriate bulletin date.

Bulletin Assistants: Arrive 15 minutes before service to pass out bulletins. Count the number of people in attendance (including worship volunteers and all in the nursery if applicable) and mark this number on the chart inside the kiosk.

Door Greeters: Arrive 15 minutes before service to greet members and visitors at the doors of both entrances of the church.

<u>The Verger</u>: is a caretaker role who keeps their eyes and ears open to lend a hand for any need that arises with congregants or worship providers during the service.

Should you have any questions, please contact Laurie Mauro at (419) 877-5366. Thank you all for your time and attention to helping make our Worship Services run smoothly!



Blessings & Prayers



Praying for God's People

Remember the following in our daily prayers for all who are ill, shut in, recently hospitalized, Military, or in need of prayer:

Barb Atkinson, Sue Brown, Val Brown, Craig Burdo, Troy Bernhard, Shirley Cofer, Susan Dental, Brittany Dewitz, Jim & Sue Enk, Ron Hetherwick, Art Ingmire, Tom Jennings, Tristan Kimmey, Donna Longnecker, Judy Mock, Marita Perkins, Dorothy Petrell, Kathy Phillips, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Dick Rison, Peter Schultz, Carol Stiles, Phyllis Sturgeon, Debbie Warner, Lois Wise, Military: Jay Rasmusson, Austin Cunningham





Prayers of the Church

For us to keep our prayer requests current and fresh in worship---we update our prayer list every two weeks. The names you provide will be included in the prayers of the congregation for two weeks. If you would like to renew your prayer request, please use the form available in the gathering area or contact the church office. Thank you. Continue to pray for one another!







Prayer Shawls

Irene Rang and Cheryl Fischer are responsible for the prayer shawls. If you are interested in making a prayer shawl or know of someone who would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl, please contact Irene at 269-832-7714.



Children's Sermon

Kids of all ages please join Pastor Steve on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m. as he shares the good news of Jesus! He'll even have a sticker waiting just for YOU!!!! Thank you to the AW Jazz Burnen Starring on Drums our very own, Josh Kohntopp! Your gift of music has blessed our sanctuary!

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Thank you to the Youth and Education team for organizing and hosting the Lenten Soup Suppers and to all who contributed in many ways!!!











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Family/Kid Events & Meetings





EASTER EGG HUNT

9:00am on Easter Sunday, March 31, starting in the Fellowship Hall at Community of Christ—all ages!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS

Join us for Kids Sunday School between services (9:00) in the fellowship hall with stories, songs, and fun on **April 7** at Community of Christ!





Family Game Night

Join us on Sat. April 13 starting at 6:00pm for a potluck dinner and family game night—bring a favorite game to play and share food, fun, and laughs!



Next Meeting Date April 3@ 7:00 p.m.





Next Meeting Date April 8 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date April 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date April 11 @ 7:00 p.m. "Making Jesus Known"



Building Beds to Celebrate Fifty Years

Among all the different ways we're observing our fiftieth anniversary, one of the most exciting has been seeing the energy and variety of gifts and talents shared for the Bed Build coming up on April 6 at 9:00 a.m. As we've been announcing lately, our goal is to build (and fund) fifty actual beds for children and youth in Luca County who don't have a place to lay their heads. And we've seen the congregation step up in a big way to support this vision! Your financial support, the in-kind donations of sheets, blankets, and pillows, the fleece blankets paid for with monies through Thrivent Actions Teams, the quilts made by our own Community of Christ Material Girls, and the help who will be on-site on Saturday, April 6 to physically build the beds are all amazing! We're so excited to see so many different people in the congregation get behind this vision and help young people in our area as a way of honoring the fifty-year legacy of Community of Christ! We can't wait to see you there on April 6!



Eclipse Day Gathering at Community of Christ (April 8, 2:30-3:30)

Community of Christ is hosting an Eclipse Watching Gathering this April, and this is a big deal, astronomically speaking! The last time there was a total solar eclipse in northwestern Ohio was more than two hundred years ago in 1806, so this is the chance of a lifetime to see the sun's light being covered by the shadow of the moon. If you're looking for a place to watch, you are welcome to come to the churchyard on Monday, April 8, where from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. we'll be celebrating the day and observing the sky! We can't guarantee what the weather will be like on that day, and if it's cloudy our observations will obviously be limited, but if we get clear skies, this could be a wonder to behold! Since our local schools are off for the day, you won't be missing school, and we'll have some pairs of eclipse-viewing glasses available if you haven't gotten some on your own already (available in stores and online now, if you're interested in getting your own). Since our faith reminds us that God's love is even more faithful than the sun, since "there is no shadow of turning with thee", this is a chance to remember that even when the sun's light is covered up by the moon (or clouds) God's love is constant and ever present—so it makes sense to be with us in the churchyard on a day like this! Join us on April 8 for Eclipse Day at Community of Christ!

CoC Upcoming Events



Family Game Night

for Kids, Youth, and Grown-Ups on April 13 We're inviting everyone to join us for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and play at our Game Night on Saturday, April 13, starting at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share and a favorite board game, and we'll play, eat, and laugh together. We're also planning on a special Giant-Sized game for all, too, so come and share a fun evening with something for everyone! This is a great event to invite a friend or family member to join us for as well! Hope to see you there!



April Ladies Lunch

Where: Sunset Bistro, Bowling Green OH *When:* April 26, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

Becky will be at a wedding, so I am your contact person for the first Ladies' Lunch in 2024. Please sign up for the luncheon on the kiosk. If you have questions or want to share a ride, let me know. Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444

Save these dates for the rest of the Ladies' Lunches:

May 24	August 23
June 28	September 27
July 26	October 25

Exploring

All Creation Sings

All Creation Sings

a workshop for Rostered Leaders, Church Musicians, ...and anyone excited about the church's song!



You are invited to a workshop to get to know <u>All Creation Sings</u>, the hymnal supplement released late in 2020 as a companion to <u>Evangelical Lutheran Worship</u> (the cranberry red hymnal). This resource contains 200 hymns and additional liturgy resources, but many haven't yet had the chance to get to become familiar with its songs and settings.



So join rostered leaders, musicians, and anyone interested in church music and song on Saturday, April 20 at 9:00am at Community of Christ Lutheran Church (6517 Finzel Road, in Whitehouse, Ohio) for a morning of song and sharing to get to know <u>All Creation Sings</u> and to explore how you and your congregation might make use of this resource.



Register through the Synod office at https://nwos-elca.church by April 8. A pew edition copy of <u>All Creation Sings</u> is included with the \$25.00 registration fee!



Do you enjoy the music in our worship? Do you ever wish you could hear something over again? Soon you will be able to. Whenever you want you can hear the choir, Amanda Worthington, Chad Ackerman, Emily Pollock, Pastor Lash, Pastor Bond, the Band, the Bell Choir, Eric Dickey, his wife Sarah Magoun, and the Congregation. Order your copy of *Make a Joyful Noise*, a commemorative CD of music from Community of Christ. Details about how to order coming soon.

More CoC News!



The 50th Anniversary T-shirts have been ordered and this is what they will look like. They will be available for pick-up at the Bed Build, or after services church after April 6th. Remember that if you haven't already paid, a payment of \$15 is due before the shirt will be distributed. We will have a few additional shirts to be purchased if you missed the first deadline. If we don't have the size, you need and there is enough interest, we can do another order. If you have any questions, please contact Marsha Cochran at 419-376-5513.

Thank you to Dick Burdo for tidying up the landscape for our Holy Week Services!!!





Piano Concert here at Community of Christ!

Bryce Jennings will be performing here at Community of Christ on Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m. Bryce is an alumnus of Maumee HS and knows our very own Eric Dickey! Bryce shared with me; "I was in good company during my high school days! Eric was one of my initial influences and exposures to the jazz music world! When he would come accompany us for our classes, I couldn't fathom the sounds he was producing from the keys! I'm beyond excited to be back!" Please join us and invite a friend! To learn more about Bryce, please see his bio on the kiosk!

Program Order: 1. Amazing Grace 2. Tis so Sweet 3. My Jesus, I Love Thee 4. Great is Thy Faithfulness 5. Hold to God's Unchanging Hand 6. Medley, It is Well/How Great Thou Art 7. Holy Holy Holy 8. Jesus Paid it All 9. I Surrender All 10. Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus 11. The Benediction When it's your birthday, plus you are at church, then a little birdie calls to ask for some special birthday wishes for you, AND the Pastor happens to have a guitar, YOU get serenaded!

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Happy Birthday, Deanna! Visitation Ministry Sends Easter and Holy Week Greetings to College Students and Makes Easter Baskets



While we often think of our Visitation Ministry at Community of Christ focusing on homebound members, or those who might be recovering from illness or surgery, we are also always thinking of our congregation's college students and those in active military service. This March, we sent notes to our college students, including their own canvas cross like we offered to the congregation this Lent starting on Ash Wednesday, and a reminder of the online resources we're offering, from video to daily devotions to Pastor Steve's weekly podcast. Our Visitation Ministry also made Easter baskets, including cards with drawings and artwork from our Sunday School and Confirmation Class students, to share with our homebound members and to let them know we're thinking of them! Special thanks go to all the Visitation Ministry Team members who check in with people all across our congregation!



Our Littles! Making Jesus Known in the World that God Loves!





Miss Victoria helping her friend above! & Mr. Max helping Dad pass out bulletins!

Thank you, kiddos!!! 🙂





Living in Faith Together

LIFT NEWS: March '24

LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is a collaboration of congregations in the Fremont area, including Emmanuel, Faith, Grace, St. John's, and St. Mark Lutheran Churches and Hayes Memorial UMC. Our mission priorities are: Being present in the community, witnessing to God's love, hearing the needs, serving our neighbor, and striving for justice.

Welcoming Bags for our Migrant Neighbors



Holy Week with LIFT



LIFT to Celebrate Easter Vigil on March 30

LIFT will celebrate the Easter Vigil on March 30 at 7 PM at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Fremont. In the early centuries of Christianity, baptisms were only performed at one time a year—Easter Vigil. Persons new to Christianity—catechumens—were baptized at the Easter Vigil and welcomed into the faith. In preparation, the catechumens would have a period of preparation, usually involving prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. This time became Lent. For our LIFT vigil, we'll start outside around the fire, then process inside with candles to hear creative retellings of salvation Bible stories. We'll remember our Baptism and celebrate Holy Communion.



Change of Habit

Pastor Mark Boae

Change of Circumstances

Pastor Matt Wheeler

Change of Heart

Pastor Paul Bailie

Change of Plans SAM Maureen Pump

Change of Plans

Change of Habit

SAM Maureen Pum

Pastor Mark Boaen

March 13

March 20

LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is a collaboration of congregations in the Fremont area, including Emmanuel, Faith, Grace, St John's and St Mark Lutheran Churches, and Hayes Memorial UMC. Their mission priorities are: Being present in the community, witnessing God's love, hearing the needs, serving our neighbor, and striving for justice.

One of their programs, **Bridge of Hope**, prepares welcoming baskets for migrant families of Sandusky County every April. Community of Christ is taking up this challenge the first four weeks of March and will be collecting items to help fill these baskets.

Migrant workers arrive with what they can carry, a backpack or a small bag. They only have enough room for a few clothes and a few personal items. Before they earn their first paychecks, they need some basic items to help them get started. The list contains the following items: laundry baskets, garden gloves (M-L), lightweight blankets, rubber overshoes, pillows, fans, long sleeve thin cotton pullover shirts (S-L), Baseball Caps with neck covering, Small coolers, bandanas, first aid kits, thin lightweight coveralls (S-L), sunscreen, water thermoses, shampoo and conditioner, coffee mugs, laundry detergent, fabric softener, lunch boxes, toilet paper, electric razors, bath towels/face towels/wash clothes, sunglasses, toothpaste/toothbrushes, light raincoats/parkas (S-L), deodorant. As you can see, they need several practical items to allow them to work long days in the fields, seven days a week, in all types of weather!

I can picture Jesus and the Disciples, hanging out with the migrant workers: they are "foreigners", speak a different language, look different, are very poor, and are hated by many, just His type of people! Let's help *Make Jesus Known* to this marginalized community.

For more information on LIFT: www.liftchurches.org



Eunice Kronberg	04/01
Kristin Boehly	04/01
Kristen Schuchmann	04/02
Alison Nutter	04/03
Matthew Smigelski	04/03
Clara Ollenrenshaw	04/04
Jason Baden	04/04
Karole Sigg	04/04
Thomas Abraham	04/04
Bill Malicoate	04/05
Carl Brosten	04/05
Gene Phillips	04/06
Joanne Gottwald	04/06
Gary Wise	04/07
Pastor Ron Heinz	04/07
Cole Ackerman	04/08
Ron Hetherwick	04/08
	0 1/00

Sharon Prueter 04/08 **Tyler Britsch** 04/08 **Karen Petrell** 04/09 **Kelly Rice** 04/11 **Robin Fritz** 04/13 **Addison Carman** 04/14 04/14 **Katie Pollock** Christopher Raker 04/15 Andrew Smigelski 04/16 Harper Korb 04/16 **Stacie Phillips** 04/17 **Alex Swagler** 04/18 **Claire Baden** 04/19 Elena Sokoloski 04/19 **Shirley Miller** 04/19 Will Happel III 04/19 Kerri Ohns 04/20

Matthew Yokum	04/20
Robert Keogh	04/20
Matt Dewitz	04/22
Ayva Bartley	04/23
Patricia Campbell	04/23
Dennis Wixey	04/24
Sandra Elsholz	04/24
Dorothy Petrell	04/25
Jeff Rice	04/25
Shirley Cofer	04/25
Marlene LaChine	04/26
Michelle Gebhart	04/27
Phil Haack	04/28
Win Sturgeon	04/28
Taylor Reid	04/29
Chris Rilling	04/30
Nicholas Kronmann	04/30
Zoe Winkelman	04/30





ewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

Exciting news from our church! We are offering you more giving options to support our church's financial needs. Council and Finance Committee (as well as the Synod) have recommended the use of a new online safe and secure tool to be able to give online electronically. The program is through Tithe.ly company used by many other churches and organizations. It has several options to be able to give as noted below:

- Your donations are recorded for your giving records, and confidential to the financial secretary.

- When you donate, you designate the fund you would like your monies to go toward e.g., building loan, general, thank-you, or other.

-There are four methods to give:

- 1. On the church website @ https://tithe.ly/give?c=2746426
- 2. Online (through tithe.ly website, search for Community of Christ)
- By text: simply text the word <u>give</u> to get started.
 Community Of Christ Lutheran Church: (833) 985-2568
- 4. Download the app and give. **Prithe.ly**

Notes:

- The app and the web link allow you to input credit/debit card information. The text method will charge through your existing cell phone bill.
- There is a fee for this service for the convenience that it offers:
 - You can choose to cover this fee in addition to your donation, OR if you don't, the fee is deducted from the donation to the church.
 - This fee is a percentage typical of this type of service.

SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM

PLEASE REMEMBER ---we also offer an <u>electronic offering</u>, (Simply Giving) that will withdraw your offering automatically from your bank account. THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD'S WORK AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH!

Community of Christ: In Focus Video Series

Stewardship Committee invites you to check out a new series of short videos, releasing monthly, which highlight different areas of our ministry life here at Community of Christ. We're calling it <u>Community of Christ:</u> <u>In Focus</u>, and each one gives a bit of a deeper dive into the many facets of our congregational life. Our first video, highlighting worship and music, is already available to watch through our website (look under the Worship Bulletin and Recordings section of the "News and Events" tab), on our Facebook page, or YouTube. Future videos will help shine a spotlight on the different kinds of things our gifts of time, talent, and treasure go to support so that you can have a better sense of the MANY things God is up to around here at Community of Christ. Check them out, share them with a friend, and learn more about how our resources, shared for Christ's service in this place, are being used for God's work in the world!

