



Pastor Steve Bond
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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
 LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Jesus Known



419-877-0607
www.commofchrist.org

March 2024

**COMING
 SOON!**

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
 March 10, 9:00 a.m.

Quilt Ministry
 March 5 & 19

Stewardship
 March 5

Worship and Music
 March 7

AW Jazz Concert
 March 10

Visitation Ministry
 March 11

Youth & Education
 March 11

Church Council
 March 12

Book Club
 March 19

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

Pastor's Letter—March 2024

from Pastor Steve Bond

There are some movies I have watched dozens of times before—and I'll watch them dozens more times, no doubt. There are some books I keep coming back to over the years, even though I've already underlined my favorite lines and dog-eared the pages of the best passages. And, of course, our family cookbook opens up on its own to the most frequently made recipes, on pages that are now stained from bits of flour or water that crinkle the paper from all the times a few ingredients have spilled while making our go-to dishes. My guess is that you have had similar experiences, too, with your own favorite movies, novels, and recipes. We keep coming back to the stories that define us, the books that captivate us, and the foods that comfort us, even though they are no longer "new." Maybe the plot of a great movie doesn't surprise us the same way it did the first time we saw it on the big screen, but we are still drawn into the tension and twists as the characters go through them again. Maybe we already know what the soup will taste like, but we make it again exactly because we know we can count on it to nourish us on a cold night.

I find myself thinking of the story of Jesus' passion and the great drama of Holy Week the same way, honestly. We know the plot points. We know what lies beyond the joyful procession with palms and raucous shouts of "Hosanna!" on Palm Sunday. And we know, too, that on the other side of the sorrow that unfolds between Thursday's betrayal, Friday's cross, and Saturday's deathly silence, there is the unbridled hope of resurrection, too. These moments in The Story aren't new to us, but they do feed us like a favorite recipe. They do direct us still in our day and our times, like following the steps in *The Joy of Cooking*. When we find ourselves humbled by having our feet or hands washed on Maundy Thursday, we are challenged again to practice such self-giving love in our own daily lives. When we feel the cool metal of the nails and the rough wooden beams on Good Friday, we are brought up speechless in the light of God's love that went to a cross for us. When we hear the old, old stories of our faith woven together at the cross and empty tomb on Holy Saturday (a new tradition for us here at Community of Christ in the Easter Vigil) we see how God has moved through time and space to rescue and redeem us from the very beginning! And when we hear of Mary's coming to the tomb in shock and surprise before the risen Jesus, somehow, we are made new, too, even though we have heard the story countless times before.

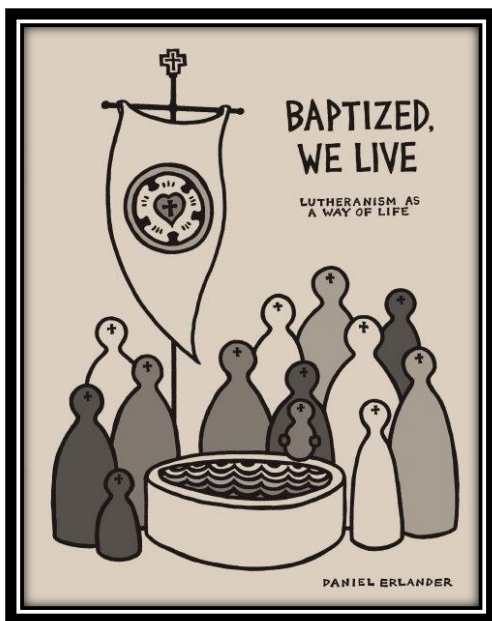
from Pastor Steve Bond continued

In a way, all of our weekly worship as Christians—but especially during the events of Holy Week—is about letting God re-story us. We come to be reshaped in light of the broken bread of Jesus' table, the utter surrender of the cross, and the world-changing joy of the resurrection. We come to remember who we are, because of Whose we are. We come to be fed again with the sustenance of a meal we know will fill us. We come, even though we know the story, or maybe exactly because we know this Story, and the God who draws us into it.

In the rest of these weeks of Lent and then in Holy Week, we invite you to be drawn into these stories—the covenant stories of ancient Israel as part of our Wednesday night series, the stories of Jesus on his journey to the cross on Sundays in Lent, and the story of the cross and resurrection that makes everything new. Join us these days and let the living God re-story us.

Christ's Peace to you all along the way,

Pastor Steve



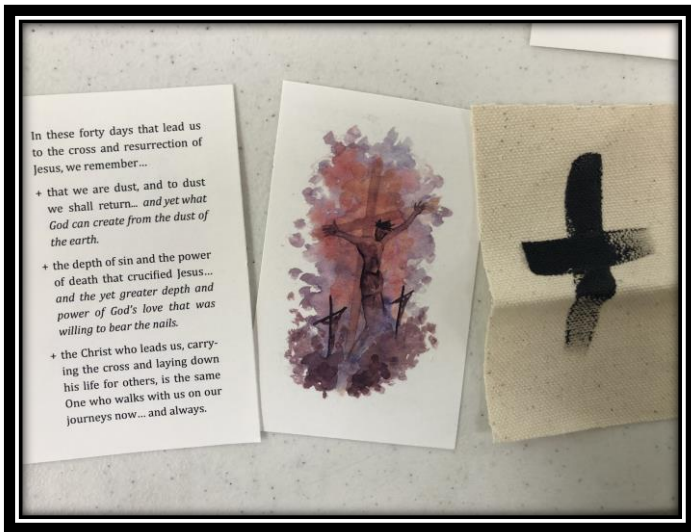
Adult Sunday School in March: Baptized We Live (Lutheranism as a Way of Life)

In a time and culture with lots of "versions" of Christianity (call them denominations, church-bodies, traditions, or styles) and when many people just consider their religious identification to be "none," why are we Lutheran Christians--and what does that even mean? Join us through March as we continue our series in our Adult Forum, "Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life" for more at 9:00 a.m. (between services) in the Library at CoC! Whether you have been a lifelong Lutheran and just want to dig deeper or have come to Community of Christ from other traditions and want to know more about what it means to be a Christian in the Lutheran tradition, or have always wondered, "Why do we do it THAT way?", this is a great chance to deepen your faith, think big questions, and learn more about our tradition. If you have been thinking about joining Community of Christ as a new member, this is a great opportunity to learn more about our identity as a Lutheran congregation. All participants will get their own copy of the helpful short book, [Baptized We Live: Lutheranism As A Way of Life](#) by Daniel Erlander, as well!

Join Us on Wednesdays in Lent!

Every Wednesday this Lent, you are invited to join us for midweek soup suppers, evening prayer services, and something new and experimental here at Community of Christ! Each week, gather at 6:00 p.m. for dinner in the fellowship hall (you can also still help contribute something to our weekly meals by adding your name to the date you can help at the sign-up on the kiosk in the Gathering Space). Between dinner and the start of our evening worship at 7:00 p.m., we invite you to participate in a weekly creative project where arts and spirituality meet and connect with our focus story for the week in worship. On our first Wednesday (Feb. 21) we made a giant-sized rainbow to connect with the end of the story of Noah and the Ark, where God gave the rainbow as a sign of the covenant not to destroy the earth. See each week what other kinds of creative connections we'll be exploring together as we learn and reflect on the other covenant stories in the overarching Story of the Bible, from Abraham and Sarah to the Ten Commandments and more. You are welcome to come to any and all parts of these Wednesdays: the dinner at 6:00 p.m., the creative arts project during the 6:00 p.m. hour in the Gathering Space, and the evening service at 7:00 p.m. These evenings are family-friendly, so know that children are welcome, too, and they're a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to attend as well!





Still Available

Canvas Cross Swatches for Lent

In case you missed your chance on Ash Wednesday to get one, you are invited to take a swatch of fabric with a cross marked on it, as a token you can keep with you all throughout this season of Lent and as a reminder of the crosses traced on our foreheads in ashes on Ash Wednesday. We're also giving these same pieces of cross-marked fabric to our homebound members and college students as a way of helping to keep them connected with our congregation through this season. Long after you have washed the ashes from your forehead, we hope these crosses on canvas will remind you of the way each of us is marked with the cross of Christ in our baptism, and how Christ promises to share our whole life's journey as we follow him. Take one from the table in the Gathering Space for yourself, a family member, or for a neighbor who could use it as a reminder of God's love for them, too!

The new "Community of Christ: In Focus" Video Features Toolbox

Our latest "In Focus" video is here, and this month we're featuring the Toolbox Ministry. Join us on a six-minute look at a recent outing the Toolbox crew did for Urban Wholistics (a community garden program in downtown Toledo that we've also partnered with for "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday), featuring photos of our work and an in-person interview with our own Claudia and Jerry Jones, who were a part of this Toolbox project. And know that YOUR support of Community of Christ's ministry helps to allow us to reach out to neighbors near and far like this, whether it's installing a floor, running electrical wiring, hooking up appliances, or clearing brush from a neighbor's yard. YOU are helping us to reach out to God's Big Neighborhood (the world) and to help *make Jesus known* with your own gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and this is just one of the ways we do it together!

Stewardship Committee invites you to check out new videos in this series each month, which highlight different areas of our ministry life here at Community of Christ. We're calling it Community of Christ: In Focus, and each one gives a bit of a deeper dive into the many facets of our congregational life. Find them through our website (www.commofchrist.org), on our Facebook Page, or on 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!



Holy Week at Community of Christ

Our journey through Lent culminates in the drama, beauty, and passion of Holy Week, and you're invited to gather with us in worship for these special events and services this Holy Week (March 24-31).

Palm Sunday (8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.)—March 24

The story of Jesus' triumphal entry and revolutionary upside-down parade into Jerusalem begins Holy Week on Palm Sunday, and you'll be invited into the story yourself with palm branches and celebration at our usual two service times on March 24.

Eric Dickey's "Jazz Passion"—March 27, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a special service concluding our Wednesday Lenten series with an arrangement of the Passion story of Jesus written by our own Eric Dickey and shared as part of evening prayer with a variety of instruments and voices, set in a jazz arrangement. Experience the story of Jesus' journey to the cross in a whole new way with the music and drama of this arrangement!

Maundy Thursday—Footwashing Forgiveness, and Holy Communion—March 28, 7:00 p.m.

On the night of Jesus' betrayal, John's Gospel tells us that he washed the feet of his disciples (including Judas!) and commissioned his followers to love one another with the same self-giving love that serves even in lowly positions. We are also told that on that same night, Jesus took the remaining bread and cup of the Passover meal and re-imagined it as the meal of his own body and blood that we call Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper. All of these moments point ahead to Jesus' act of self-giving love at the cross, and we are drawn into the story of it all on Maundy Thursday, as our worship includes the practice of foot or handwashing, the declaration of forgiveness, and the celebration of Holy Communion. Join us for this powerful night that begins the great Three Days (or Triduum) of the Holy Week story!

Good Friday—The Passion According to Saint John—March 29, 7:00 p.m.

We gather in worship to remember the story of Jesus' suffering and death, guided by the storytelling of John's Gospel, on Good Friday. Join us for a powerful service that brings each of us to the foot of the cross to witness and worship the Crucified One.

Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil—March 30, 7:00 p.m.

This is a new tradition for us at Community of Christ, but its roots are ancient and go back to the early centuries of Christian worship. On the night before Easter, we gather to retell the ancient stories of our faith, to kindle a new fire by which to light the Paschal Candle, to remember our baptism and renew our affirmation of living as the baptized followers of Jesus, and then to hear the first news of the resurrection! Our version of the Easter Vigil will be modified to be friendlier for families and children, too. Even though some versions of the Vigil of Easter begin in the middle of the night and last until dawn, ours will start at 7:00 p.m., beginning with the kindling of a fire outside and then leading inside where the art projects we've been making throughout Lent will be brought together as part of the Great Story of God, and we'll see our worship space transformed for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus! And instead of lasting all through the hours of the night, this service will run about an hour and a quarter—still giving a chance to experience the power of the move from death to resurrection, but also letting families with younger children still participating. We hope you'll join us for this special event that is unlike any other service in the church's year!

Easter Sunday—The Resurrection of Our Lord

Join us for the all-out celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, on Easter Sunday at both our 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services!



Worship Volunteer Schedule, March 2024



	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Mar 31
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Nate Yokum	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 8:00	Zach Weber	Becky King	Irene Rang	Volunteer Needed	Kathryn Whitacre Karen Oden
Bulletin 10:00	Kathryn Whitacre	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kevin Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Camera 10:00	Rick Yokum	Neil & Susan Raymond	Kevin Swagler	Sarah Rockwell	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Bev Fischer	Josef Perkins	Bea Ludwig	Carol Wiemken	Bev Fischer
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Neil Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Cheryl Fischer
Greeter 8:00 East	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 8:00 West	Linda Metcalf	Irene Rang	Carol Wiemken	Becky King	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 East	C & N Rilling	Dean Nofzinger	Marsha Cochran	Rob Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 West	Volunteer needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Lector 8:00	Cheryl Fischer	Kahryn Whitacre	Carol Wiemken	Josef Perkins	Cheryl Fischer
Lector 10:00	Nate Yokum	Tammy Myers	Marsha Cochran	Dana Schmidt	Tammy Myers
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Cheryl Fischer	Kathryn Whitacre	Laurie Mauro	Kathryn Whitacre
Worship Asst 10:00	Kara Yokum	Dean Nofzinger	Don Schroeder	Cheryl Fischer	Marlene LaChine
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Elaine Hetherwick	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 www.commofchrist.org 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.

The Verger: 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!

Prayers



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, Mike Carroll, Shirley Cofer, Susan Dental, Brittany Dewitz, Cheryl Fischer, 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.



We remember in prayer the families of Dan Schroeder, Sandy Schroeder and Kay Burdo. May our Lord grant them peace and comfort in their hearts in the days ahead.



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 our Band!! Your gift of music has blessed our sanctuary!



Pastor Steve Bond, and Mark Winkleman, Guitar Amanda Worthington, and Chad Ackerman Vocals



Jill Kohntopp, Cello, Scott Kretzer, Drums, Eric Dickey, Piano



Altar Flower dedications for 2024 are available in the church hallway on the bulletin board. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, please sign up today. Simply fill out a blank date tag and envelope, place a check or cash and the tag in the envelope, and place it in the offering plate. Or if you simply wish to donate to our Flower Fund, please use the envelope for "donations only". We are grateful for your blessings.



Meetings & Events

“Making Jesus Known”

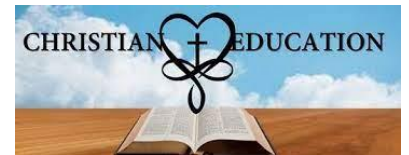


More 50th Anniversary News and Events Coming Soon!

Every month between now and May we'll be bringing you more special ways to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary as a congregation, and we want you to know you're invited to any, and all of them! Check out these events and special opportunities coming up here at Community of Christ:

Jazz Band Mar. 10 (tentative) Save-the-Date! We are planning to host a concert featuring the Anthony Wayne High School Jazz Band here at Community of Christ on the afternoon of Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m. as one more special musical celebration.

May 4-5 Weekend—The culmination of our 50th celebration that began back in September 2023, commemorating the first organizational gatherings of what would become Community of Christ will be on the weekend of May 4-5, 2024, when we'll have a big celebration dinner and program, held at Anthony Wayne High School (as an homage to our first gatherings in that cafeteria before our first worship space was built), and then a joyful celebration in worship on Sunday, May 5, with guests and special friends joining us. More details to come on these days as we get closer, but please plan to join us on May 4 and 5 for the climax of our 50-year celebration! *****Please note that we will have ONE service on this day at 9:00 a.m.*****



Next Meeting Date
March 5 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date
March 7 @ 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date
March 11 @ 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting Date
March 11 @ 6:30 p.m.



Church Council Meeting

Next Meeting Date
March 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Join us for Sunday School on March 10 here at Community of Christ!



Join us for Kids Sunday School between services (9:00) in the fellowship hall with stories, songs, and fun!

News & Events

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!



Jesus & Women

IN THE FIRST CENTURY AND NOW



KRISTI MCLELLAND

The Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study will begin a new 7-week study beginning April 2nd. Kristi McLelland will guide us through the study "Jesus & Women in the First Century and Now". Kristi will take us back to Jesus' first-century world, explaining the historical & cultural climate of His day to help us know Him more dearly. This study is a thoughtful look at several of Jesus' interactions with women in the Bible that will fuel your worship of the Living God. Please sign up at the kiosk & remember you will need to purchase the study guide. Questions??? call Becky King @ 419-349-7319

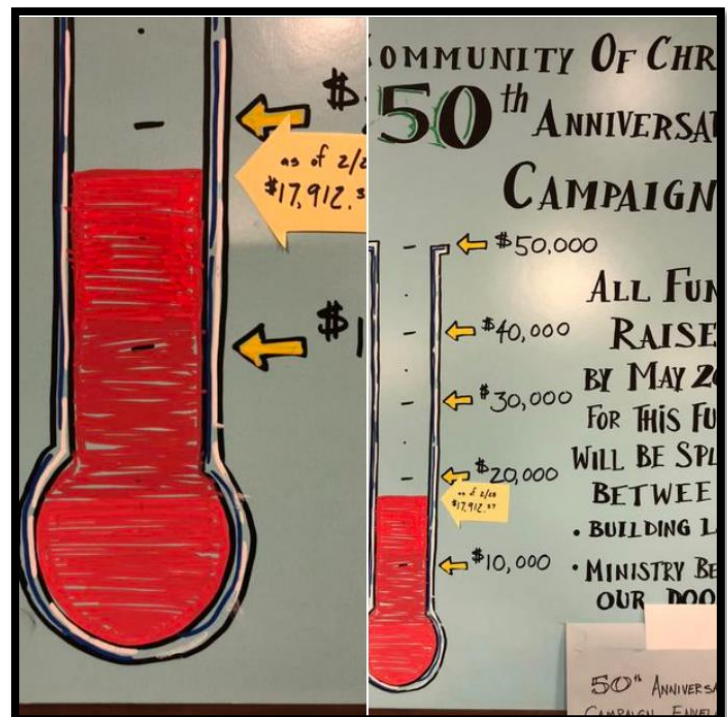
Bed Build Event

Diverse Ministries Come Together for Bed Build

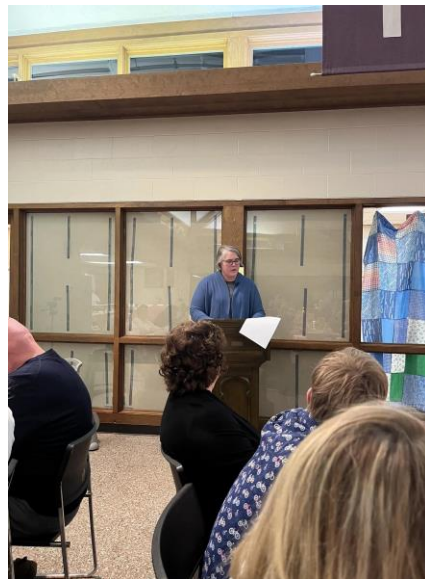
One of the things that's most exciting about our fiftieth-anniversary celebration this year is that we aren't just patting ourselves on the back but looking for ways to do good for our neighbors near and far as a part of this milestone in our church's history! And one of the biggest projects to do that is the Bed Build we're planning for April 6 (on site at the church in the parking lot, weather permitting). Partnering with a local Toledo-area organization that makes and distributes beds to kids in our region who are in need of beds, we're planning a blitz of building fifty (yep, 50!) beds in one Saturday morning!

But wait—there's more! As the idea of the Bed Build has been percolating throughout the congregation, we've seen groups and committees in the congregation get excited and want to add more to this project! So, our Material Girls quilting group is working on making quilts for some of those beds we build, and folks from Outreach are planning to make no-sew tie fleece blankets for the rest of those beds, so that we won't just be building bed frames and raising funds for the mattresses and pillows but will also be sending along handmade blankets or quilts for the children and youth in our area who receive them! That's amazing!

Remember that you can help support the Bed Build in a number of ways: you can sign up to help build on April 6, you can give a donation directly to the Bed Build project as part of our 50th anniversary campaign (see the display and envelopes in the Gathering Space, or just designate a line on your offering envelopes), or you can give a donation at our Lenten midweek meals, because all proceeds from those Wednesday dinners will also go to help fund the Bed Build, which will cost \$10,000 for all fifty beds! It's exciting to see our congregation coming together over a vision like this, and we hope you'll be a part of it!



Thank you to the many hands that came together to make the Vow Renewal Ceremony and Spaghetti Dinner a great success!






Stewardship

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)
3. By text: simply text the word **give** to get started.
Community Of Christ Lutheran Church: (833) 985-2568
4. Download the app and give. 

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 **electronic offering, (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 Community of Christ: In Focus, 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!



Making Jesus Known in the World that God Loves!



A HUGE THANK YOU to Makayla Stewart for faithfully filling the Wiggles Bags for our little ones during Worship Services 😊



Meanwhile, as Mom is restocking the Wiggles Bags, Miss Rosalie is helping Pastor Steve tune and play the guitar for the Renewal of Vows Ceremony!



Hey friends! Have you seen the **Noisy Offering jar**? If so, please bring your loose change to help raise funds for different ministries. From now until May, we will be using these monies to raise the needle on the thermometer for our 50th Anniversary fundraiser! This is a great and fun way for our youngsters to share their gifts during our Tithes and Offerings at the 8 or 10 o'clock Worship Service 😊
Thank you!

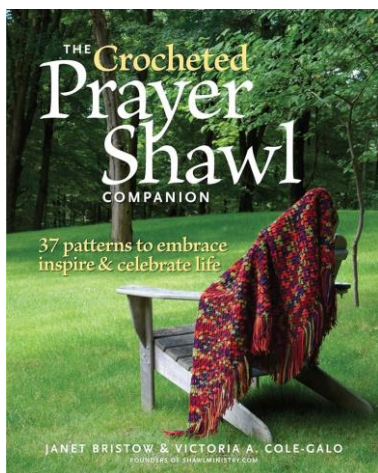
Visitation Ministry



Women (and men) have knitted and crocheted shawls to warm others for hundreds of years. But it wasn't until 1997 that the organized Prayer Shawl Ministry was started by two faithful New England women. Word spread quickly, and soon Prayer Shawl Ministry groups were forming around the world.

In 1921 our Visitation Ministry Team built on the prayer shawl group that had previously been active in our own congregation. In 2023, 23 shawls that had been created with prayer and blessed by our pastors were given to folks who would be comforted by them.

Do you enjoy the relaxation of knitting? Crocheting? If our Prayer Shawl Ministry is to continue and grow, we need your help! The pattern you choose can be simple or challenging. Need some ideas? Check out the pattern books kept in the church office. (Basic requirements—Use washable, soft yarn and aim for a width of 18-20 inches and length of 58-60 inches while knitting prayerfully.) If you have questions, just give Irene Rang (269-832-7714) or Cheryl Fischer (419-345-3033) a call.





Thank you



To my Community of Christ Family:

Thank you for the support after the unexpected loss of 3 close relatives. This has been a very challenging 3 weeks.

But, by the GRACE of God we have been blessed by YOU!

All of the prayers and cards have been a tremendous support. THANK YOU PASTOR STEVE for facilitating MEMORIAL SERVICES for Bob & Dan. THANK YOU ERIC for the MUSICAL BLESSINGS AT BOB'S SERVICE. THANK YOU CINOA AND SHELLY for the coffee & cookie reception. AND finally to MICHELLE FOR YOUR PATIENCE while coordinating all of this ACTIVITY.
BLESSINGS TO ALL,
Dan Schwandt

with love from
KAREN SUE

Feb. 5, 2024

Dear Sweet Ladies of the Kitchen,
Thank you so very much for the heartwarming gift of your homemade meals! I was so touched by the gesture when Miss Cheryl offered our support group to choose a few meals. You are all truly "MAKING JESUS KNOWN!" Please accept this donation with love & gratitude for all you do!
Blessings!
Karen Sue



Michelle,
I don't know who specifically to thank, but I appreciated the birthday greeting from COC. There's a lot going on there these days, and I'm sure you're involved in a lot of it. It's great to see.
Lou Ann Brettel

2-4-24

Community of Christ Church,
I wish to thank everyone who was thinking of me in my time of loss.
I also want to thank Pastor Steve for the beautiful service he had for Bob.
Thanks again
Jackie Schalit

Community of Christ Women, & Shelly Hayes
Thank you so much for your frozen meals. They were greatly appreciated, & Shelly thank you for all your support and thinking of Don & myself
Don & Barb Atkinson



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.



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Welcoming Bags for our Migrant Neighbors




WELCOMING BASKETS

Bridge of Hope is preparing welcoming baskets for migrant families coming to work in the fields of Sandusky County every April. We are asking for donations to help make these possible. For info, call 419-334-2605

Donated items may be sent to:
Hayes Memorial UMC
1441 Fonghoner Rd.
Fremont, OH 43420

- Laundry baskets
- Garden gloves sizes M-L
- Light weight Blankets
- Rubber overshoes
- Pillows
- Long sleeve thin cotton pullover shirts
- Fans
- Baseball caps with neck covering
- Small coolers
- Bandanas
- First aid kits
- Thin lightweight coveralls
- 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
- Deodorant

Holy Week with LIFT

Maundy Thursday March 28	Good Friday March 29	Saturday March 30
Grace 6:30 PM Worship  Faith 7 PM Worship St. John's 7 PM Worship	 St. Mark 12 PM Faith 7 PM Grace 6:30 PM St. John's 7 PM	 Grace 4 PM Worship St. Mark 7 PM LIFT Easter Vigil

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.



MAKING CHANGE



**2024 Lenten Series
Wednesdays Starting
February 21**



LIFT is offering midweek Lenten worship. Congregations stay. Leaders rotate.

Grace: Meal—5 PM, Worship 6:30 PM
St. John's: Worship—12 PM
St. Mark: Meal 6 PM, Worship 7 PM

	Grace	St. John's	St. Mark
Feb. 21	Change of Season Pastor Mark Bogen	Change of Season Pastor Matt Wheeler	Change of Season Pastor Paul Bailie
Feb. 28	Change of Circumstances Pastor Matt Wheeler	Change of Heart Pastor Paul Bailie	Change of Habit Pastor Mark Bogen
March 6	Change of Heart Pastor Paul Bailie	Change of Plans SAM Maureen Pump	Change of Circumstances Pastor Matt Wheeler
March 13	Change of Plans SAM Maureen Pump	Change of Habit Pastor Mark Bogen	Change of Heart Pastor Paul Bailie
March 20	Change of Habit Pastor Mark Bogen	Change of Circumstances Pastor Matt Wheeler	Change of Plans SAM Maureen Pump

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/facet 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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Cathy Happel	03/01
Christine McKee	03/01
Jacob Heilmann	03/01
Alexander Raymond	03/02
Andrew Donnal	03/03
Carol Stiles	03/03
Barbara Mersing	03/04
Evan Karg	03/04
Hannah Sheetz	03/04
Josh Swagler	03/04
Matthew Dick	03/04
Bob Smigelski	03/05
Deanna Cedargren	03/05
Susan Olman	03/05
Zach Jones	03/05
Dave Alleman	03/06
Alison Fritz	03/07
Cammie Abraham	03/09
Cindy Smith	03/09
EzRhianna Bond	03/09
Liz Deacon	03/09
Dana Schmidt	03/10
Lindsey Alleman	03/11
Thomas Lytle	03/11
Deborah Lytle	03/12



Brian Petrell	03/13
Nicole Baden	03/13
Douglas Pontsler	03/16
Andrew Carman	03/18
Kim Jones	03/18
Nathan Steinman	03/18
Lisa Pitchford	03/20
Adam Ahrens	03/21
Cathy Kronmann	03/21
Jacob Gehring	03/21
Jim Schwartz	03/22
David Dick	03/23
Harold Smith Jr.	03/23
Ken Hayes	03/24
Kyle Lutz	03/24
Susan Nutter	03/24
Larry Papenfuss	03/26
Avery Jones	03/27
Shannon Ruhe	03/27
Neil Raymond	03/29
Donald Sutter	03/30
Ella Karg	03/30
Timothy Tuohy	03/30
Brian Lowell	03/31
Rob Kohntopp	03/31

Book Club 1:00 p.m.



*March 19, 2024, The Golden Spoon
by Jesse Maxwell

*April 16, 2024, The White Lady by
Jacqueline Winspear

*May 21, 2024, Earth's the Right
Place for Love: A Novel by Elizabeth
Berg

*June 18, 2024, Braiding Sweet Grass
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Members' suggestions:

*Michelle: TRU BIZ by Sara Novic or
MOUTH TO MOUTH by Antoine
Wilson

*Joan B: HURRICANE SEASON by
Lauren Denton

*Kathryn: THE PERSON LIBRARIAN
by Marie Benedict

*Lauren Willig's: A BAND OF
SISTERS: or A NOVEL TWO WARS
AND A WEDDING

Marc Cameron books with the
character, Arliss Cutter

Other News!

The Masterworks Choral conducted by Tim Cloeter will present its Classics Concert at Epiphany Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 16, at 8:00 p.m. This concert will focus on heavenly light—not only the literal light from the moon and stars but also the light of paradise. The highlight of the concert will be Fauré's Requiem, an extraordinary light-filled remembrance of the dearly departed for choir and chamber orchestra. (Our very own Chad Ackerman will be singing!)

Tickets are available at 419-742-2775 or www.masterworkstoledo.com. Epiphany Lutheran Church is at 915 N. Reynolds Road in Toledo.



Friendship Pad--- Please pass it along!

A great way to make a new friend! Please share the friendship pad each time you worship! You may update your address with our church office—or indicate a prayer concern, or the desire for a pastoral visit. Visitors—we would love to communicate a welcome to you! Please introduce yourself following worship on Sunday morning! **Pass the pad! Thanks!**

A note from Tina Baden: As some of you are aware, Jessica Baden is working in Clonmel, Ireland for the next 18-24 months. Clonmel is about 2 hours south of Dublin. She works for Boston Scientific as a biomedical engineer where she improved the endoscope and is now being manufactured in Ireland. She enjoys watching the services online. You can follow her on Facebook or Instagram at [Jess.goes.green](https://www.instagram.com/Jess.goes.green). Email baden_jessica@yahoo.com.

Jessica Baden
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Co. Tipperary E91 PY13
Ireland



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Community of Christ Lutheran Church



Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

419-877-0607

secretary@commofchrist.org

www.commofchrist.org

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