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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



November 2024

What's Ahead

Worship Times
Sunday Morning
8 & 10 a.m. starting
In-person and
Facebook Live

Sunday Morning
Bible Study
9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

Pastor's Bible Study
Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Visitation Ministry
November 4

Outreach
November 4

Quilt Ministry
October 5 & 19

Worship & Music
November 7

Youth and Education
November 11

Council Meeting
November 12

Concert Committee
November 12

Stewardship
November 19

Social Action
November 20

Choir
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Bell Choir
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

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

**Church Office will be
closed on November
11, 27, 28, and 29**

Pastor's Letter, November 2024—The Victory of Jesus

It's late October as I write this—still two weeks away from Election Day—but I can tell you with confidence even now that *the victory that matters most has already been won*. I can't tell you, as I'm sitting down to my keyboard at my desk, who has won which contests, which party will have a majority in Congress, or which local and state ballot measures will have been passed. But I don't have those in mind for the moment. When I say that the victory that matters most has **already been won**, I'm not talking about the U.S. Senate or the presidency or issues for our schools or libraries (as much as I care about things like those, and I know you do as well). I mean to say that for us as Christians, our hope is pinned not on whether Democrats or Republicans (or for that matter, the Whig Party or the Know-Nothings) win more races on the first Tuesday in November, but on the victory, God has already accomplished in Jesus through the cross and resurrection, by which the powers of death, sin, hatred, and evil have been defeated. To borrow a cliché you've probably heard already, our hope is ultimately not in donkeys or elephants, but in a Lamb. And of course, part of what makes Jesus' victory so surprising and counter-cultural is that it hasn't been won by crushing his enemies, building an empire, or amassing a political machine, but by dying on a Roman cross and rising from a borrowed tomb. We are people who believe that the victory of Jesus is the victory that matters most of all in the cosmic scheme of things, even as local and national elections come and go, and even as empires and superpowers arise and crumble on the stage of world history. That perspective changes everything for us.

In this final month of the church year, which for us has been focused on "Meeting Jesus" throughout 2024, we'll center our attention on the theme of *The Victory of Jesus*, and maybe it is especially appropriate for us to do that even during the month of our election and the weeks that will follow after it, with all the excitement for some and disappointment for others that it will bring (and probably for all of us, relief just at the end of the barrage of ads that have bombarded us). This month brings us the Feast of All Saints, which is always a celebration of God's promised welcome to all those who have gone before us in the faith and are already at God's feast of victory. And it ends with the celebration of Christ the King Sunday, a festival in the church's year that reminds us what an upside-down kind of king we have in Jesus, who reigns from a cross and who doesn't come to conquer or tyrannize but to bring us to life in him. While I don't know the details of what will make the headlines after Election Day this year,

Pastor's Letter Continued



I do know that this is exactly the victory—Jesus' cross and resurrection—that we will need most of all to pin our lives on. And I know that because of that victory we have confidence in God's ultimate triumph and the promise of new creation where death is destroyed, tears are wiped away, and we join with all creation in praise of the Slain but Living Lamb.

Looking back on the course of this past year of "Meeting Jesus," I hope it has been valuable for you to spend time, season by season and month by month, on Big Ideas like the *cross* of Jesus, the *table* of Jesus, the *way* of Jesus, and the *love* of Jesus. Now, I invite you to let this month give you renewed hope for whatever is in store for us because of the *victory* of Jesus—a victory which has already been won, and which makes all things new.

Grateful for all of you and the ways we share together in that victory over death and sin,
Pastor Steve



Crazy Faith Talk Podcast Poses "Questions We Want To Ask God"

Our weekly podcast, "*Crazy Faith Talk*," offers conversation and insights looking at a variety of topics, subjects, and ideas from faith and church life to pop culture and everything in between. *Crazy Faith Talk* releases new episodes every Tuesday at noon, and you can listen for free, either finding the link on our Facebook page, finding it at www.blogtalkradio.com/crazyfaithtalk (where you can also subscribe for free to get notifications of new episodes), or even asking your Smart Speaker (like Amazon Echo) to play the podcast "Crazy Faith Talk." **Crazy Faith Talk is also now on Spotify, too!** If you like to listen to music or podcasts using the Spotify app, you can find Crazy Faith Talk there, too! Think of it like being invited around the table to listen in to pastors talking through their own faith, questions, and struggles and being able to take the conversation with you listen and reflect on wherever you go—in the car, from your smart-speaker, or on your phone or tablet.

Coming in November we'll be starting a new series that includes not only Pastor Steve and two colleague pastors from other places in the country, but our own Vicar Natalie joining the conversations, too! We'll be exploring "Questions We Want to Ask God" this November, and each of our four participants will have a chance to pose a question to the group we have always wanted to know more about, and then the conversation will unfold from there. We hope you'll listen in and explore questions for God this November on Crazy Faith Talk!



All Saints'

What is "All Saints' Day"?

Every Sunday in the Creed, we affirm our belief in "the communion of saints," which is so, a shorthand for saying we believe that we remain connected to all the people of God from every time and place, not just around the world now, but including those who have died and gone before us to be in the fullest presence of God. We believe that death does not cut us off from them, but rather we are together the mystical body of Christ. And so, on All Saints' Day, we specially remember those from our own congregation who have died in the past year as well as lifting up the names of other departed loved ones whom we trust are in God's care and to whom we remain connected. Here at Community of Christ, we'll also have a table in the back of the worship space with photos of those who have died in the past year from our congregation, and candles lit to honor the ways they let their lights shine in the world as well.

The old Lutheran Book of Worship's Manual on the Liturgy adds these historical notes: *"The custom of commemorating all the martyrs of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. In the East, the celebration is still on the Sunday after Pentecost (which is Trinity Sunday in the West). When the festival was introduced in the West it was kept first on May 13, the date of the dedication of the rebuilt Roman Pantheon to St. Mary and All Martyrs. In modern practice, All Saints' Day commemorates not only all the martyrs but all the people of God, living and dead, who form the mystical body of Christ."* Today, the Festival of All Saints is marked on November 1, or in congregations like ours, on the first Sunday in November as "All Saints' Sunday." (This is also why October 31, the evening *before* the Festival of All Saints, is sometimes called "All Hallows' Eve," or in abbreviated form, "Halloween.") And as a bit of bonus Lutheran trivia, the reason we celebrate Reformation Sunday as the last Sunday in October is to make the connection to Luther posting the Ninety-Five Theses on that same date, Oct. 31, 1517. For him, the timing was intentional—his theses posted to the Wittenberg door had to do with the status of those who had died (and included things like whether there was a place called "purgatory" for the sins of dead Christians to be purged away, and whether the good deeds of other people could be "applied" to someone else's account to get them "out" of purgatory, all of which Luther critiqued as unscriptural, and thus beginning the movement we now call the Protestant Reformation.

We hope you can join in worship on Nov. 3 as we celebrate the Good News that God promises to gather us with all the followers of Jesus as the people of God in God's resurrection feast of victory, where even death itself will be destroyed!



Christ the King



What is “Christ the King Sunday”?

The church’s way of keeping time is always blessedly weird—we might as well just own that. While we might complain that consumerist culture around us is rushing too fast by putting out Christmas displays as soon as the Halloween candy has been moved to the discount bin, the church is So, of the curve as we mark the end of our “year” with the celebration of “Christ the King Sunday,” preparing for the start of a new church year with Advent while the rest of the world’s calendars still have a month to go. It’s delightfully out of step, and that’s part of the beauty of Christ the King Sunday. This day is set apart in the church’s year to skip to the “end of the story,” so to speak, and to remind us of Christ’s promised coming in glory and reigning in justice and mercy. It is a reminder that even though empires, nations, kings, and administrations come and go throughout history, God wins in the end and Jesus is Lord. And yet—and this is the hilarious punch-line of God’s divine comedy!—Jesus’ way of reigning and being king looks *nothing* like what the world expects from kings and rulers. Jesus doesn’t conquer with armies, and he doesn’t destroy his enemies with furious spite or insatiable wrath—rather, he prays God’s forgiveness on the very ones crucifying him, loves his enemies, and defeats the Last Enemy (death itself!) by dying, not by killing. Jesus’ way of reigning doesn’t look like the conquering war hero or the brutality and bullying of a tyrant. It looks like an itinerant rabbi holding dinner parties with the “sinners and tax collectors.” It looks like a towel and basin of water to wash feet, to serve rather than being served. It looks like a cross. That beautiful, mind-boggling paradox is what Christ the King Sunday is really all about.

Historically, a date on the church’s calendar to focus on Christ’s reign is pretty recent, even though the idea of Jesus as a surprising king is right there in the New Testament. This festival was first proposed by our Roman Catholic siblings when Pope Pius XI in 1925 proposed it in the face of rising fascism and communism in Europe. And in that sense, Christ the King Sunday is simply one more expression of what the earliest Christians knew: when they confessed “Jesus is Lord” it was a statement that nobody else—not Caesar, not a Pharaoh, not a human king, earthly government, or demagogue of the day—was Lord.

As our online worship resource, “Sundays and Seasons” puts it powerfully, “Jesus redefines what power is and what people think God’s power looks like to fight evil and suffering in the world. Jesus does not resist the way of the cross with force. Rather than protecting himself from harm in any way, the vulnerable King Jesus dares to demonstrate God’s love for all people. Jesus does not run from pain, anguish, or suffering. Rather, the risen Jesus, ‘the ruler of the kings of the earth’ (Rev. 1:5), rushes to the places of disaster and suffering in the world. Jesus goes where storms are ravaging and have ravaged lives and brings life and calm into the chaos.”

So, this November 24, join us in worship for Christ the King Sunday, in order to be surprised yet again at the glorious surprise of a king who reigns from a cross, and whose kingdom is grounded in love. Come and be reminded of the good news at the end of the story: God wins, and God’s victory looks like a cross and an empty tomb.

from Vicar Natalie Downs



Being Gentle with Ourselves and Others

"So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, and quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as [God] forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it."

Colossians 3:12-17



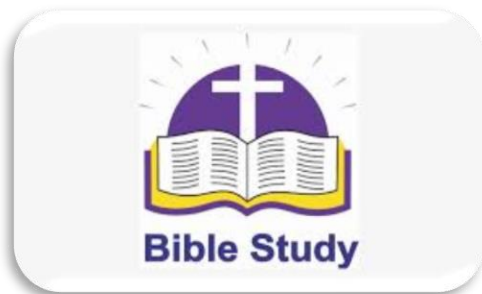
Currently, I am enrolled in Spiritual Practices at Wartburg, where we explore and practice as a group various spiritual exercises and meditations. Early October, I decided to do a spiritual practice focused on praying with origami. I prepared all the materials (origami paper, string, needle) and mailed them out to everyone in my class, so that after learning how to make an origami dove, they can make their own mobile of doves to hang somewhere as a reminder of God's presence with them. As excited as I was to share one of my own spiritual practices, I was not sure how this would go - it either was going to be something fun that people would love or something that was going to be an absolute disaster teaching how to fold origami over zoom. As I was composing my reflection for class, I realized that seminary and even our own spiritual lives can be like learning origami. Our journey with God is not always a straight path where we know all the instructions or information to get to the creative end, yet we can get frustrated, weighed down, and dismayed when we don't feel we measure up to expectations or are not yet where we feel we should be. Sometimes it takes time to learn and grow with God, to be patient with ourselves. And with others, that can be the same case. They are learning and growing too, and so our practice of patience and grace even extends outside of ourselves. The first time I folded a dove was a mess. It took time to learn the right ways to line up the paper and make sure that I was careful in bending and folding in a way that didn't tear the paper. Something I learned through this process about myself (and something that was echoed by my colleagues after the practice) is this exercise of creative prayer invited us into a space of being gentle with ourselves and one another in the process of learning.

from Vicar Natalie Downs Continued



Sometimes we are our own worst enemies. We can be hard on ourselves when we don't get it right, or we don't feel we add up to other people's standards and expectations. God though, who is generous in love and forgiveness, is gentle with you. You are made new by Jesus' sacrifice and the work of the Holy Spirit. God doesn't keep a scorecard to determine if you are worthy of love. As God's creation, you are already loved and accepted and redeemed through the cross of Christ. Our neighbors, known to us and unknown, are also learning and being shaped on this journey and are in need of God's grace and ours as well. Patience and gentleness with ourselves and others is a way to walk in the grace of God. We live in the reality of the cross and the rhythm of confession and forgiveness, where God meets us in our weakness to bring grace-filled wholeness, allowing us to renew our steps and walk once again, changed and made new. I love the Message translation of Colossians 3 that expands our imagination to see that grace-filled living is something we put on daily and has means to impact ourselves and the world. In all you do, be gentle with yourself and others, trusting that God's garment of love, given to you freely makes you and others enough in God's eyes.

Grow in Faith Together



**Current and Coming Thursday
Bible Study News**



This November our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study group is finishing our Fall Study in the book of Galatians, "Freed... for Love." If you have wanted to check out the study, you are still welcome to jump in at any time, as we've been looking at the amazing news of grace that welcomes us as we are and frees us to love others. Everybody is welcome at this weekly gathering in the Council Room from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

But wait! There's more! After Thanksgiving, we'll be starting a new series, 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!"? Join us on Thursdays beginning in December and running into the new year 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, starting Dec. 5 after our series on Galatians concludes! We'd love to have you around the table!

Grow in Faith Together



All Saints Day, Nov 3rd



Join us for a holy remembrance of family and friends who rest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Pastor Steve will share the names of those you have provided for us. White roses and photographs of members and those whom we have held memorial services for who have passed in the last twelve months will be respectfully displayed in the sanctuary. We will toll the bell in remembrance as we celebrate the Saints of faith! We will respectfully include each name in the prayer of the church.

Loved ones remembered this year

Robert (Bob) Schalitz, Kay Burdo,

Craig Burdo, Patricia (Pat) Campbell,

Bob Schroeder, Dan Schroeder

Thanksgiving Service



Community Thanksgiving Service With Hope UMC

Before the turkey is thawing and the table settings are placed, we want to invite you to join with neighbors from Hope United Methodist, Community of Christ, and the wider community for a service of Thanksgiving on the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day (November 24) at 7:00 p.m. If you're already joining us for the Organ Recital at Community of Christ that afternoon, that still gives you plenty of time for a leisurely dinner and then to gather and join in worship, thanks, and praise in this joint venture between our congregations. This is another great event to invite a friend or bring your family members to, as we give thanks to God for all that we have in our lives!



Grow in Faith Together



Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*



You're Invited to An Advent Art Workshop

Join us on the morning of Saturday, Nov. 9, for an open time to help create artistic projects for around the church this coming Advent and Christmas season. We've got a few fun surprises for the congregation this year as we prepare for celebrating Christ's birth, and we would love you to get to be a part of making them a reality. Want to join us? Like being creative? Sign up at the kiosk and join us in the fellowship hall for some painting, cutting, and crafty fun between 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. There will be things to do for adults, kids, and anybody in between! If you're interested, join us on Nov. 9!

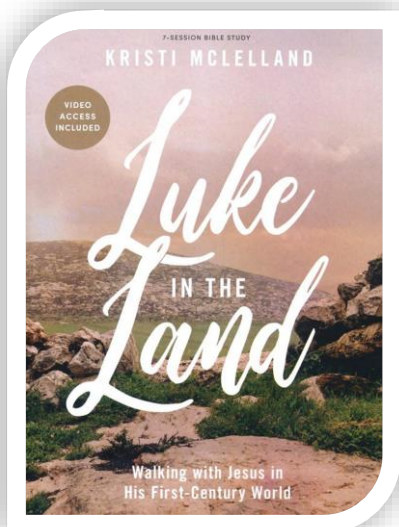


Adult Sunday School Series "On The Other Hand..." Coming This November

- What do we do when one Bible verse says one thing, and another verse seems to say another?
- When we die, are we waiting for a future resurrection, or are we immediately with God right away?
- How do we understand the times when Jesus take a law from the Old Testament and then says, "But I say to you" and adds something different?

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

Faith and Friendship



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



Community of Christ Book Club

Community of Christ October Book Club
When: November 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.
Where: Church Library
Book: *The Maid* by Nita Prose

Coming Up:

December - Our Annual Christmas outing. Date to be Announced!

January 21 - *The Women* by Kristen Hannah

February 18 - *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

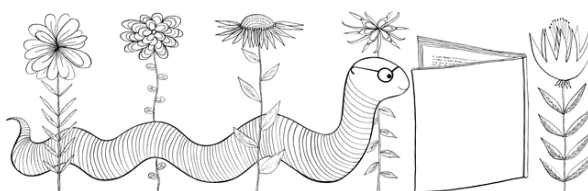
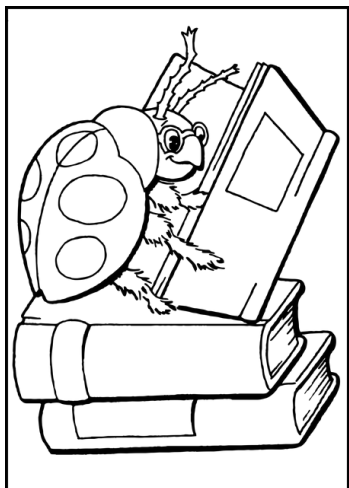
March 18 - *Demon of Unrest* by Eric Larson

April 15 - *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Reid Jenkins

May 20 - *Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny

June 17 - *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelley Van Pelt

Questions??? Call or Text: Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444



Worship Volunteer Schedule November 2024



Week	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Nate Yokum	Kari Swagler
Bulletin 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Vince Mauro	Irene Rang
Bulletin 10:00	Michelle Gebhart	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell	Rick Yokum	Kevin Swagler
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Bea Ludwig	Becky King	Volunteer Needed	Bea Ludwig
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West 8:00	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East 8:00	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Marsha Cochran	Rob Kohntopp	N&C Rilling
Lector 8:00	Josef Perkins	Kathryn Whitacre	Becky King	Carol Wiemken
Lector 10:00	Greg Aubell	Dana Schmidt	Natalie Downs	Kathryn Whitacre
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Natalie Downs	Laurie Mauro	Carol Wiemken
Worship Asst 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Kevin Swagler	Kara Yokum	Marlene LaChine
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Becky King	Vince Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 10/21/2024**

*****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



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:

MATINA BENTON, SUE BROWN, DEBBIE CARMAN, SHIRLEY COFER, JANET DELLINGER, VIRGINIA DILLON, SUSIE DONNAL, JIM & SUE ENK, FLO HANNUM, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, TOM JENNINGS, TRISTAN KIMMEY, JACK MILLER, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, DICK RISON, IRIS ROCKWELL, PETER SCHULTZ, PHYLLIS STURGEON, DAVE THORNE, LOIS WISE
MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE



Prayer Request

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 congregation's prayers for two weeks. If you want 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!



Children's Sermon

Kids of all ages please join Pastor Steve for a Children's Sermon at both the 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. services. This is the Pastor's time to share the good news of Jesus with our younger friends! He'll even have a sticker waiting just for YOU!!!!



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 reach out to Irene at 269-832-7714.



*****ATTENTION Members and Friends***
SPONSORED WEEKENDS HAVE NOT
BEEN TURNED IN*****

If you have sponsored a weekend for Altar Flowers and have not turned in your envelope(s) please do so no later than the Sunday before that weekend so this can be shared in the bulletin. Thank you ✝

CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



VISITATION MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date

November 4 @ 10:30 a.m.



Outreach

Next Meeting Date

November 4 @ 7:00 p.m..



Next Meeting Date

November 7 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 11 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 12 @ 6:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 12 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 19 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

November 20 @ 10:00 a.m.



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

****Announcement: Deadline for Annual Meeting Reports****

Attention Committee Chairs and Council Liaisons: Please note that, due to the timing of annual report components and the way the November/December calendar falls, plus Michelle's upcoming vacation in early December, all annual committee reports should be submitted to the church office by **Tuesday, November 12**. Your reports should summarize the key accomplishments of your committee over the past year and your goals and objectives for the upcoming year. To make this easier, you can copy and paste highlights from your previous month's reports. Additionally, please include your committee's description or mission, the chairperson's name, and a list of committee members. If you have any questions or need a template for your report, please contact Michelle at secretary@commofchrist.org. Thank you!



Announcements

Thank you for the response to our appeal to replenish the Capital Improvement Fund. Our available balance has returned to the level prior to the air conditioner and roof repair expenses. The congregation is blessed by your donations. Property Committee, Don Schroeder, Council Liaison



Toledo Choral Society

Performs "Messiah" on December 8th at 3:00 p.m. Gesu Roman Catholic Parrish, 2049 Parkside Blvd., Toledo, Ohio. Did you know that Vicar Natalie Downs and member Shelly Hayes perform with the Toledo Choral Society? Help them and the other 100 voices of the TCS to continue to bring this truly-inspired piece of music to NW Ohio each year! Tickets are just \$35.00 and can be purchased from Shelly or \$38.25 online:

<https://toledochoralsociety.org/get-tickets>

Stay tuned for other TCS Holiday performances later in December.



Sneezeweed



Prairie Meadow Update

As fall winds down we continue to see late blooms of our native plants. Currently blooming Black-Eyed Sneezeweed, Yarrow, Asters, and Black-Eyed Susan. In addition, seed heads of summer blooming plants are developing into their own important works of God's creation. Tall thimbleweed, although only a relatively unimpressive small green flower resembling a thimble in summer, develops into a unique seed head resembling an exploding mass of lamb's wool. Stop out and enjoy the new scenery.

It has become apparent that the Prairie Meadow is the recipient of donations of large amounts of common milkweed seed pods. This is a reminder that the plot should only be seeded with seed of known genetic make up of Oak Openings regions plants of a known source, either the Metroparks seed nursery or other known sources of Oak Openings region seeds. Keeping the plot seeded with plants of genetic make up known to be of this very specific region helps keep the nearby Metroparks native seed cultivation fields well as the local Oak Openings Region from being genetically compromised. Please chat with Laurie Mauro regarding donations of seed to the Prairie Meadow plot and refrain from donating/depositing seed in the plot without prior approval.





Getting Involved at COC

It's that wonderful time of year!



We invite you and your family to dedicate a poinsettia in honor of a loved one. Please fill out your envelope (available on the table in the gathering space or at the back of the church) and submit your payment today! 😊
You can pick up your flowers after our 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Thank you!

Poinsettia Order: \$10.00 per plant. You can choose from Pink, Red, or White.

**** Orders must be received by Sunday, November 10, 2024. ****



Save the Date!

Our 2nd Annual Christmas Caroling event will be on Saturday, December 14th. Please join us as we go out and spread Christmas joy to some of our shut-ins and community members. No experience is required! No talent is required! The words for the carols will be provided so no need to worry about not knowing the words. Start time is currently being worked out and after spreading Christmas joy we'll share in some holiday cheer with pizza and snacks at the Swagler's home. Please watch for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

Why NOW is the right time to check out the choir



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

- Christ the King Sunday, Nov 24, 10:00 a.m.
- 2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m.
- 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec 22, 10:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 11:00 p.m.

Sing for as many or as few of the above dates as you are available. We would love to have you join us in the choir loft when it works for you!



Getting Involved at COC



New Member Luncheon November 3



Our council is starting what we hope to be a new annual tradition here at Community of Christ as we host a New Members luncheon after the 10:00 a.m. service on November 3, with all those who have joined our congregation in the past year. We hope this gathering will help newer members to get to know one another better as well as to get to know our current council leadership and help make connections for those looking for new ways to get involved and feel at home here at Community of Christ.

A Christmas Tree Waiting for Your Additions...

This Christmas season our Social Action Ministry will be renewing our participation in the Lutheran Home of Mercy “Adopt A Resident” in-gathering of Christmas presents, and so we’ll be adding an extra Christmas tree to our space—one that will be in the Gathering Space for Lutheran Home of Mercy gifts, and then the one in the sanctuary will still be the place to bring gifts for kids connected with Salem Lutheran in the North End of Toledo.

And that means we have an additional tree to *decorate*, and so we would like to invite YOU to help us decorate the Luther Home of Mercy tree by bringing in an ornament from *your* collection at home to represent you or your household, and to bring it to add to the Gathering Space tree. Imagine walking into the Gathering Space and seeing a variety of styles and shapes of ornaments, each representing the families of our congregation, as a way of honoring how we are a church family together as Community of Christ and letting that be the place to gather our presents for the adult residents of Luther Home of Mercy! Bring your ornaments from home to add to the tree in the Gathering Space later this November and stay tuned for details about our collection of gifts for Luther Home of Mercy!





Getting Involved at COC

Concert Committee Presents Benefit Organ Recital—Nov. 24

Now that the 50th Anniversary Committee has handed the baton, so to speak, to our rebooted Concert Committee to organize and present concerts in our worship space throughout the year, we are excited to invite you to an Organ Recital featuring four performers on the keyboards of our piano and organ on the afternoon of Sunday, November 24 at 3:00 p.m. This concert will be a benefit event, with the free-will offering being divided between hurricane relief for Hurricanes Helene and Milton through Lutheran Disaster Relief and our own Building Fund as we continue to pay down our building loan for the addition that constructed our sanctuary, gathering space, and offices. This concert will feature our own Eric Dickey, along with Jacob Henry, Kate Philabaum, and Pam Stover, and we would love you to join us and to bring a friend! If you would like to help the Concert Committee in its ongoing work to present different musical offerings in 2025 and beyond, you can join us at our next meeting on November 12 at 6:00 p.m., or contact Pastor Steve, Eric Dickey, or Chris Rilling!



It's Not Too Late to Share Your Time, Talent, and Treasure!

At the start of the fall, we invited everyone in the congregation to consider how we would offer back our time, talent, and treasure to God's work among us at Community of Christ in the year ahead, and we're grateful for all those who returned their Time and Talent forms as well as the Invitation to Financial Commitment cards for 2025. But in case you missed our date to bring those forms in and consecrate ourselves to God's work in the year ahead, you can still bring in your Time and Talent form or Financial Commitment card to the main office, either during the week or on Sunday mornings, and have them included in the information we'll share with committees to help include volunteers where you have indicated interest. We'll be getting initial compilations of names and their interests for serving to our committees this November, so that we can make contact with all those who have said they would offer their time and talent in different areas! Thanks to all for the ways you step up and reach out in here at Community of Christ to *make Jesus known!*



Social Action Ministry Seeks YOUR Help and Ideas in Loving Neighbors!

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



Getting Involved at COC



****Adopt a Resident at the Lutheran Home of Mercy!****

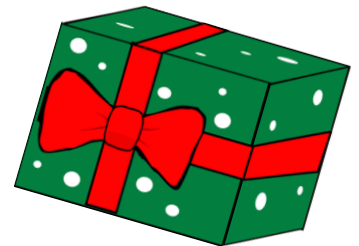
This holiday season, many of our seniors who reside in nursing care centers may not have family nearby. You can help spread love and joy by adopting a resident! We currently have 20 seniors who would greatly appreciate your support through a Christmas gift.

Would you consider bringing a smile to a resident's face this Christmas? Your thoughtful gift can make a significant difference in their lives.

****Important Details:****

- ****Gift Submission Deadline:** Sunday, December 8th**
- ****Please do NOT WRAP gifts as they need to be inventoried. Instead place in a Christmas gift bag!**
- ****Shopping Lists:** Coming soon!**

Thank you for showing love and kindness as Jesus teaches us! Let's make this holiday season special for our seniors.



Salem Gifts for Children

This year, as in past years, Community of Christ will have the opportunity to reach out and bless the children of our sister church, Salem Lutheran Church, in north Toledo. Pastor Mike from Salem will be providing us with a list of names of their children and their gift requests. We will incorporate these requests into an envelope and have them displayed on the bulletin board in the Gathering place.

Here are some important dates for the project:

- Sunday, November 24th, 2024, the bulletin board in the Gathering Place will be decorated with Salem Angel requests.
- Select your "Angel" and enter your name and phone number on the pink or blue Angel slip on the board. Take the envelope behind the pink or blue slip with you. It has all the information you need regarding the gift request. **Please do not remove the pink or blue slips or relocate them on the board as this our inventory method.**
- Shop for your "Angel" and leave your gift under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- Sunday, December 15th, 2024, is the last day to return your gifts. Please have them under the tree by no later than 11:30 a.m. Ken and I will be transferring your gifts to Salem that day!

Thanks for helping to bless these children at Christmas time! Shelly & Ken Hayes



STEWARDSHIP


A Disciple's Way of Life



Exciting news from our church! We are offering you more 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. 

2024 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Sep	\$12,061	\$12,563	(\$502)
YTD	\$103,201	\$113,067	(\$9,866)
2024 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Sep	\$32,065	\$33,420	(\$1,355)
YTD	\$278,491	\$302,133	(\$23,642)

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!

Visitation Ministry News!



Thank you to everyone who participated in "Cookie Sunday" and took a bag of cookies to a neighbor, teacher, friend or co-worker. We hope that they helped you to brighten someone's day.

Thank you to everyone who helped with baking, frosting and packaging cookies to make "Cookie Sunday" happen! We couldn't do it without your help!



Visitation Ministry News!

10-17-2024

To the Cookies Bakers,

I received your special cookies from my neighbor Kent Olmen. How nice the message is connecting Psalm 65:4 to the "God loves you, and so do we!"

The cookies were delicious!! You have some cookie bakers in your congregation. The whole production, paper bag, stamp, and cookies, was wonderful to receive. Thank you.

Lucy



Remember - The freezer in the church kitchen is stocked with individual freezer meals. Please feel free to take one, or two for someone you know is recuperating from surgery, getting over an illness or as relief from other caregiving. Please fill out the sheet on the front of the freezer. This is so that we know that everyone in need is being served. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to give Michelle (church administrator) a call.





**SOCIAL ACTION
MINISTRY**

Making Jesus Known in All We Do!

A heartfelt thank you to Carrie and Tim Tuohy for their efforts in packing and delivering the School Kits and Quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We also appreciate everyone who donated items for the School Kits, as well as the Material Girls for crafting those beautiful quilts that will provide support to our brothers and sisters in need around the world!



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**



Making Jesus Known in All We Do!

Welcome Table drawing animals with chalk, making pictures of people, and filling out the world that God loves! Thanks for being creative with us!



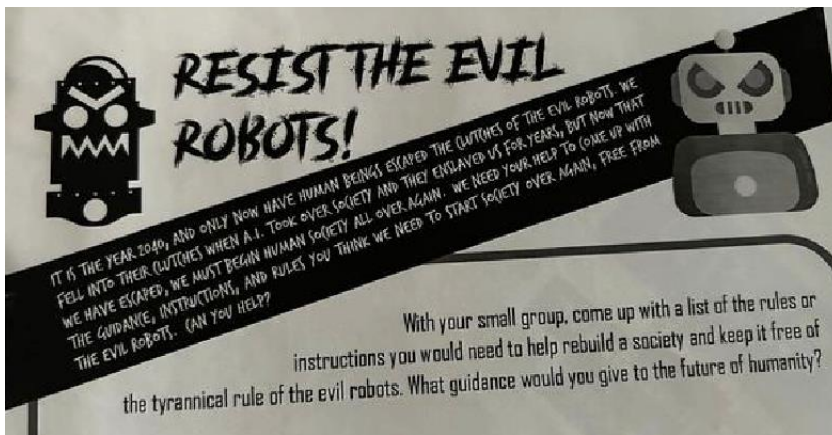
Lots of good moments in our final Welcome Table Wednesday for the fall!



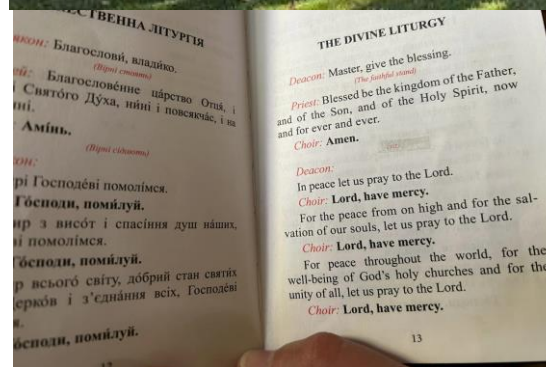


Making Jesus Known in All We Do!

Great Confirmation class with our friends at Zion, Waterville—great tacos from Cocina de Carlos, and great discussion about the meaning of the commandments as we played “Escape from the Evil Robots.” Grateful to have a great group of young people in class and the great team of leaders!



We had a great outing with our confirmation students as well as friends from Zion, Waterville and Solomon, Woodville to experience worship with neighbors at St Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rossford, as we learn about other faith traditions and their ways of worshipping!





Making Jesus Known in All We Do!



Wanted to thank you and crew to ~~visit~~ visit my overgrown yard.
Everyone did an incredible job.
I was very pleased and Thankful for you and church.
It use to be Mom and I volunteered for everything and took care of all this - now age and body took over.
The "Christ in our Home" and Bulletins help a lot. THANK YOU AGAIN

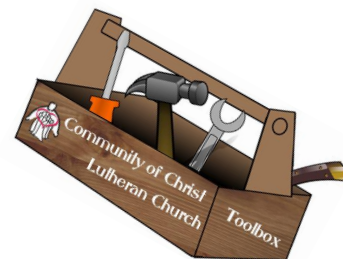
"Love Bechie"



Making Jesus Known in All We Do!



Our Toolbox Crew did awesome work adding a wheelchair ramp to a neighbor's house today—thanks for your amazing work, crew!





Making Jesus Known in All We Do!

Thanks to everyone who joined us to hand out candy and take photos with our "Jesus Loves Ewe" Good Shepherd cutout at Waterville's Boo-To-Do! We had a wonderful evening!





Jerald Nemire	11/01
Lisa Boltz	11/01
Kevin Gebhart	11/02
Amy Fifer	11/03
Anna Rasmusson	11/04
Lisa Dick	11/04
Stephen Eberly	11/04
Vickie Geha	11/05
Dennis Dohse	11/06
Tammy Myers	11/06
Terrie Knight	11/06
Brittany Holliker	11/07
Mark Pitchford	11/07



Parker Ray	11/07
Anne Greenhagen	11/08
Matthew Britsch	11/08
Dave Rockwell	11/10
Liz Uhlik	11/10
Kenneth Terveen	11/11
Scott Boltz	11/12
Rita Wagoner	11/14
Zach Weber	11/14
Amy Mustafaga	11/15
Susan Owczarzak	11/15
Marie Archer	11/16

Michael Karg	11/16
Sarah Bond	11/18
Melissa Deacon	11/19
Gracee Pitchford	11/22
Al Lipinski	11/23
Mallori Pollock	11/24
Josie Heilmann	11/26
Rebecca Myers	11/26
David Braun	11/27
Pamela Davis	11/27
Rose Marie Ackerman	11/27
Kathryn Depinet	11/29



Community of Christ Lutheran Church Welcomes You!



****Exciting News! Scan Our New QR Code!****

Community of Christ Church Members

We're thrilled to introduce our new QR code system, making it easier than ever to connect with us and access valuable resources! Simply scan the QR code below using your smartphone camera or QR code scanner app to unlock a world of information and opportunities:

By scanning this code, you'll gain instant access to:

- Church announcements through our Newsletter
- Worship bulletins & recordings, and podcasts
- Church calendar
- Donation portals and volunteering opportunities
- And much more!



This innovative technology allows us to streamline communication and enhance your experience within our community. Whether you're a longtime member or a newcomer, we invite you to scan the QR code and explore all that awaits you.

Thank you for embracing this new initiative as we strive to make your engagement with us as seamless and enriching as possible.

Church Office Hours

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



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

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