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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



February 2025

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
 February 3

Social Action
 February 5

Worship & Music
 February 6

Stewardship
 February 6

Prairie Meadow
Task Force
 February 6

Christian
Education
 February 10

Concert
 February 11

Council Meeting
 February 11

Lay Internship
 February 13

Outreach
 February 26

Choir
 Wednesdays
 7:00 p.m.

Bell Choir
 Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

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

Pastor's Letter, February 2025—On the Edge of Our Comfort Zones

You know, it's funny. In the Bible, whenever Jesus is gathering disciples to be a part of his movement, he never leaves them unchanged. Jesus doesn't just hand people religious pamphlets and say, "See you in heaven," with a wink, before turning to walk away. He pulls people along for the journey to follow him—to go where he goes, to see the way he sees, to share his message, and to do what he does. That rarely leaves people in the same places or routines where he found them, and it never leaves them the same. Before all is said and done, the disciples of Jesus are given new courage to reach out to new people (including folks they would have thought before were too different, too bad, or too far away), a new vision to feed and care for those in need, and even new names (good old' Simon gets the new name Peter, and Saul starts going by the name of Paul). They are sent by Jesus to "all nations" with a love that includes not only family and neighbors nearby but also strangers and enemies. And they are constantly being led past the edge of their comfort zones, as they discover the Spirit nudging them to share the Good News of Jesus with people who had been hostile to them, people who were from different ethnic groups, and people from other nations, languages, and cultures. Jesus hadn't come to leave them in their old routines or mindsets, but to make something new out of them.

Jesus hasn't changed strategies, by the way. To be a follower of Jesus in 2025 runs the same risk as it did for the first-century fishermen and tax collectors who found themselves around Jesus' table. He will take us by the hand and lead us beyond our comfort zones, too. That might mean Jesus dares **you** to share your faith with someone at work, at school, or at the grocery store. It could mean that the Holy Spirit pulls **you** to take the time to sit and listen to the folks who sit alone at lunch or need the ear of a friend. It could look like a new ministry idea here at Community of Christ—like the "Conversations and More" group getting started this month, or the new energy building at Social Action Ministry. It might mean that, like our confirmation students going to experience worship at Temple Shomer Emunim, you are led to learn about your neighbor's faith and to discover God's presence there in unexpected ways. It might mean that **you** step up to volunteer in role or join a ministry that you have never tried before, from assisting in Sunday worship to sewing with the quilters to helping serve meals at Salem Lutheran in Toledo once a month to singing along with residents at Blue Creek Nursing Home. Whatever it is, be prepared for Jesus to call you beyond what is familiar and out of our comfort zones.

Somewhere along the way, I think a lot of us got into the mindset that our faith does the opposite—that we believe in God in order to be *insulated* from the changes or challenges of the outside world, or that God's job is just to preserve "The Way Things Are" (or to cajole the world back to some imagined perfect "Way Things Used To Be" from our rose-colored reminiscences). But that's not the way the Scriptures actually talk, and it's not the way Jesus' movement in the world looks, either. No, the prophet says, "Do not consider the former things, and do not remember the things of old—I am about to do a NEW thing!" And the apostle says, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation! The old has passed away—look, everything is being made new!" And Jesus, too, sends his disciples from the epicenter of resurrection with a new commandment and a new commission: to love all, the way he has first loved us, and to make disciples of all nations. None of that sounds like going back to "the way we've always done it," but rather, it sounds like being led to the

Pastor's Letter, On the Edge of Our Comfort Zones, continued...

edge of our comfort zones. And it sounds like a joyous and exuberant adventure to be a part of. So, good news: Jesus has already taken us by the hand to lead us with him. And we take the next step, with him, together.

Grateful to share this journey of life on the edge with all of you,
Pastor Steve

From Vicar Natalie Downs



THE BOOM

“Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.”
Isaiah 12:2

Dear friends, I want to first extend a heartfelt thank you for your prayers and kind words during my unexpected time of hospitalization and recovery. Your kindness, love, and compassion have been a help during that sudden emergency. Thank you!

When I was serving at the hospital as a chaplain completing my clinical pastoral education, we talked in our lecture time about what my instructor liked to call THE BOOM. Here is how THE BOOM would happen: we go about our everyday lives, doing the things that we have on our to-do list, the places to be, the people to see, and then suddenly, BOOM! Something happens that stops us in our tracks, whether it is a medical emergency or trauma, causing life to become shaky. Working in the hospital as a chaplain, I went into many rooms where people talked with me about their own BOOMS that landed them sitting in a hospital bed. I have listened to their stories, held their hands, and prayed with them. I have laughed, listened, comforted, and cried with them. The hospital and emergencies in our life can reveal to us our vulnerability as humans, which can be scary. We get sick, things happen that catch us off guard. And I found myself growing anxious as I found myself in the hospital, hearing I had to be admitted, and would need to have surgery - BOOM! And to be honest, I was afraid, especially waiting for test results, waiting to hear from doctors, and my stress and anxiety were climbing. And then, the Vicar of Whitehouse (that's me!) had to chaplain herself. I reminded myself of the truth I hold even in the midst of my chaos, that even in the BOOM moments, God walks with us. God is not separate from us, keeping a distance from us and the hard things in this human life. I believe in the God who is present. Jesus who says, “Remember, I am with you always to the very end of the age.” I believe in the God who says when we go through hard things or “pass through the waters,” God is with us. Going into the MRI machine (an experience I never had before), I used a breath prayer (based on Isaiah 12:2) to help me through that 25-minute procedure in a loud, small enclosed space to remind me of God's presence. I breathed in, and I thought “The Lord is my strength, and my salvation,” breathing out, “I will not be afraid.” In and out, those words repeated over and over for me as my prayer, and it brought me peace, slowing down my breath and keeping me calm. I used my Hallow app when the anxiety would heighten to take it to God and dwell in meditative prayer. We all have BOOM moments in our lives, whether they are small moments that disrupt our day, or bring an upheaval to our lives. The good news is that we have a God who loves us so much that the scriptures tell us repeatedly that God will not leave us, even in the worst of the worst moments. And we in those moments can turn to God, trusting in this love and relationship of a God who goes with us on the journey. Thanks be to God!



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



Advent Adult Sunday School Series: "Jesus—The Wonder Years"

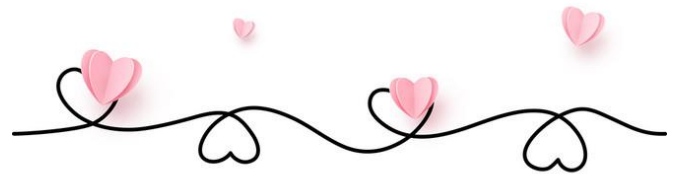
What would it have been like to raise the child Jesus? Have you ever wondered what Jesus' childhood was like, or why there are so few stories from that part of his life? And with the handful of stories we do have from the Bible, what do they mean and why do they matter for our lives? This February, we'll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

- Feb. 2—The Presentation, Part 2 (Simeon and Anna)
- Feb. 9—No Class—Congregational Breakfast in the fellowship hall
- Feb. 16—the Child Jesus in the Temple

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

New Thursday Bible Study Series Begins: When God Breaks the Rules

We often picture God as the Giver of Rules and the Maker of Laws (including, obviously, the ones literally written in stone like the Ten Commandments). But what about the times in the Bible when God does a new thing, moves in a new direction, or expands the old order of the world? What about when God *breaks* the rules? That's what we're going to be looking at in our next Thursday afternoon Bible Study series, starting this January and running through the end of March, in a new original ten-part study that Pastor Steve is calling *When God Breaks the Rules*. We'll see how God overturned the customs and traditions of the day from the earliest stories in our Bible to times when Jesus broke with the inherited traditions of the Respectable Religious Teachers of his day, to the movement of the New Testament era church as the Spirit led the first Christians across lines and borders to the ends of the earth with Jesus' love. Join us on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the council room running through March 27 for a ten-week journey in the expansive, surprising, and often rebellious ways of God! Everybody is welcome! See Pastor Steve for back issues of handouts or watch our weekly video YouTube summaries of each session, available also through our church Facebook page!



The Tuesday Ladies Bible Study will begin March 4th @ 8:30 am. We will be doing a Kristi McLelland study "The Gospel on the Ground"- Christ has ascended-now what? We will learn how the remaining disciples chose a new member to replace Judas and then became organized to begin spreading the Gospel without Christ present. This is a 7-week study, and please order your study guide before class. Please sign up at the kiosk. If you have any questions, please call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. Bring a friend!!

Worship Volunteer Schedule February 2025



Week	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Theresa Loga/Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Laurie Mauro
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Theresa Loga
Bulletin 8:00	Becky King	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Sarah Rockwell
Camera 10:00	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Rick Yokum
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Bea Ludwig	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Neil & Susan Raymond	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 8:00 East	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Theresa Loga	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 8:00 West	R & L Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Irene Rang	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 East	Volunteer Needed	Chris Rilling	Rob Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 West	Volunteer Needed	Natalie Rilling	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Lector 8:00	Theresa Loga	Josef Perkins	Ron Atkins	Becky King
Lector 10:00	Dana Schmidt	Marlene LaChine	Greg Aubell	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Cheryl Fischer	Carol Wiemken	Laurie Mauro
Worship Asst 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Natalie Downs	Volunteer Needed	Marlene LaChine
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 01/14/2025**

If you need to cancel your scheduled date, please arrange for another volunteer to take your place and fill your time slot. Additionally, remember to cancel your slot on Sign-Up Genius so the person covering for 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



Prayers

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE ILL, SHUT IN, RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED, MILITARY, OR IN NEED OF PRAYER:

MATINA BENTON, 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, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, DICK RISON, IRIS ROCKWELL, PETER SCHULTZ, PHYLLIS STURGEON, LOIS WISE
MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE



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!!!!



We lift up the families of Jeannette Schaible, Barb Atkinson, and Jerry Reed in our prayers. May the Lord bring them peace and comfort in the days to come.

In Loving Memory:

Please join us as we remember and celebrate the lives of Jerry and Dayle, both were devoted members here at Community of Christ Lutheran Church. A joint memorial service will be held on March 29 at 1:00 p.m. at the church.



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.



CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



VISITATION MINISTRY



Worship
Music



SOCIAL ACTION
MINISTRY



Stewardship
A WAY OF LIVING

Next Meeting Date

February 3 @ 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting Date

February 6 @ 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date

February 5 @ 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date

February 6 @ 6:00 p.m.



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION



Concert Committee



Church Council Meeting



Outreach

Next Meeting Date

February 10 @ 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

February 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

February 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

February 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

Crazy Faith Talk Podcast Considers People Who Lived Their Faith

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 by finding the link on our Facebook page 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! *Crazy Faith Talk* features our own Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie, as well as Sarah Aasheim, an ELCA pastor serving in eastern Pennsylvania, and Erica Wellner, a Methodist pastor in western Pennsylvania. 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.

This month we're in the middle of a series exploring the stories of people who lived out their faith in different and compelling ways. From people in offices of leadership like Jimmy Carter or Archbishop Desmond Tutu to the life lessons of Fred Rogers, to the social vision of Dorothy Day or prominent women in leadership from church history like Katharina Schutz Zell and Hildegard of Bingen, we'll explore the many ways people live out their faith in different settings, times, and cultures. Check it out with weekly posts on our church Facebook page or Twitter/X (@BeingGraced), or on your smart speaker!



Announcements



Our 2025 Church Council Members

President, Michael Abraham
Vice President, Tammy Myers
Secretary, Laurie Dewitz

Membership/Liaisons

Michael Abraham - Stewardship
Chad Ackerman – Fellowship
Pastor Steve - Concert
Matt Britsch – Property
Pam Davis – Lay Internship
Laurie Dewitz – Youth & Education
Fred Doering – Toolbox
Marlene LaChine – Visitation Ministry
Laurie Mauro – Worship & Music & Prairie Meadow
Tammy Myers – Outreach
Dean Nofzinger – Social Action
Kari Swagler – Finance
Carol Wiemken – Social Action
Treasurer, Joseph Perkins
Advisor: Pastor Stephen Bond
Financial Secretary, Michelle Gebhart

2025 Altar Flower Sponsorships Available

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

2024 Church Offering Statements Now Available for Pick-Up!

Your 2024 offering statements are now ready for you to pick up! They can be found on the table in the gathering space for your convenience. Please take a moment to collect yours after the service or visit the church office during regular office hours. If you would prefer to have your statement mailed to you, please contact the office to make arrangements. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Worship Volunteer Workshop – Saturday, Feb 2, 9:00 am

Ever wonder what is involved with helping with worship or what may be new with worship roles? Please join us on Saturday, Feb 2 for the Worship Volunteer Workshop.

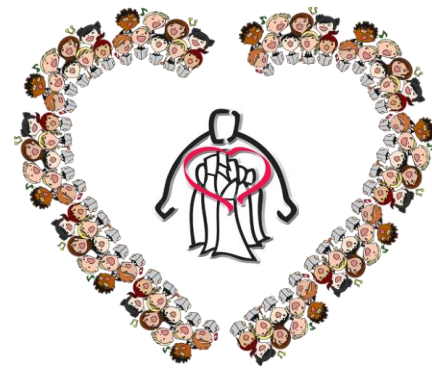
Who is this for? – Current and new Worship volunteers

What will I learn? Details of each worship volunteer role, including new information or changes to some roles.

Why should I attend? To enhance your effectiveness in your current role or to explore serving in a new capacity. We particularly need more volunteers for camera operators, communion preparation/cleaning, door greeting, bulletin assistance, acolytes/crucifers, vergers, and worship assistants. Please consider taking on a new role.

What if I cannot attend this session but want to volunteer in worship? – Guidance documents for all roles will be available. Contact Pastor Steve, Michelle Gebhart, or Laurie Mauro for a one-on-one discussion and access to the guidance documents.

Announcements



Community of Christ hosts Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble

Our first Sunday afternoon concert of 2025 is on **March 23 at 3:00 p.m.** as Community of Christ hosts a quartet of musicians in the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble, featuring a program of French composers including Saint-Saens and Faure! This will be a lovely afternoon of beautiful music, and all proceeds from the free will offering at this concert will be divided between our Building Fund to pay down our mortgage and relief for victims of the wildfires in California through Lutheran Disaster Response. This will be a great event to invite friends, family, and neighbors too, since we'll have the chance to share a fantastic performance while also supporting causes, we care about for neighbors across the country rebuilding after disaster and also being good stewards of our own responsibilities and building here. We hope you'll join us on the afternoon of March 23 for this enjoyable concert!

Choir Updates!

Our upcoming choir segment begins on Wednesday, January 29th, at 7:00 p.m. for rehearsal with Lisa!

We will sing on Sunday, February 16, during the 10:00 a.m. Service.

We will also sing on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m., and Easter Sunday, April 20th at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Unless you choose to remain after singing at our 10:00 a.m. service, you are welcome to leave once we finish singing.

We encourage you to join us for the Lent and Easter seasons!

Thank you! Eric and Lisa



Monthly Singing Visit to Blue Creek Nursing Home February 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Every month, volunteers from Community of Christ gather at Blue Creek Nursing Home (11239 Waterville Street here in Whitehouse) on the *second Tuesday* at 10:00 a.m. to share a brief (30 min) time of singing, prayer, and fellowship. We can use singers every month, whenever you are able, but we would love to have your help and voice coming up this February when it can be so easy for folks to feel down after the hoopla and festivity of Christmas has passed for another year. Join us on February 11th to help brighten the day of residents at Blue Creek! If you want to join us, you can just meet us at Blue Creek on February 11th at 10:00 a.m., or if you have questions, see Cinda Pontsler, Cheryl Fischer, or Pastor Steve!



Announcements



Join Us for Conversation and More!

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

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

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

Dates:

- February 11th, 1-3 p.m.
- February 21st, 1-3 p.m.

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



Social Action Ministry Meets February 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Our re-energized and reorganized Social Action Ministry is meeting on February 5 as we plan out events, causes, and ministries for the year, and we would LOVE your voice and presence around the table! After Christmas time collections for Salem Lutheran area youth and the Luther Home of Mercy, we're ready to look forward to new directions and important new ministries getting started in Northwestern Ohio that we can partner with, as well as long-standing agencies that we can support in new ways. We are exploring a partnership with a new foster-care support ministry called Isaiah 117 House that is getting started in the Toledo area, and we are also looking at new ways to connect with Genacross in their work with both at-risk youth and low-income seniors in the area, too. We would love your input, your presence, and your passion to help us serve and love neighbors through the Social Action Ministry! Come to our February meeting to see if this might be a place where you can share your gifts and channel your energy!

Thank You for Your Support – Blood Drive Success!

We are thrilled to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our recent blood drive a success. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to collect ****21 pints of blood****—a life-saving contribution that will help countless individuals in need.

We also want to express our gratitude to all the donors who took time out of their day to give the gift of life. Your commitment and kindness are truly appreciated.

We're excited to announce that our next blood drive will take place on ****Friday, March 7****, from ****12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.****. We encourage you to join us once again in supporting this vital cause. Your donations make a tremendous difference in the lives of those who need it most!

Thank you again for your continued support! We hope to see you on March 7.

Announcements



Pancakes, egg bakes, and donuts, oh my!

Bring your friends and your appetites, as the Outreach Committee and friends will be hosting a breakfast between services on **Sunday, February 9th**. Funds raised in the free-will offering will support our efforts to provide monthly breakfast treats to the faculty and staff at one of the area AW schools.



Anthony Wayne Area Youth Minute-to-Win-It Game Night Feb. 2—4:00-6:00 p.m.

After a great time in December at our Anthony Wayne Area Community Youth Christmas Scavenger Hunt, we're planning another fun event coming up this February: a Minute to Win It and Movie Night, to be held at Hope United Methodist Church in Whitehouse, open to youth in grades 5-12. We'll have games in their gym, food, prizes, and fun, and we'd love you to join us, from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., with a pancake bar for dinner, and lots of hilarious challenges to take on with your team! Sign up with this QR code and join us for a great time!

ANTHONY WAYNE AREA YOUTH
Minute to Win It
Students in Grades 5-12
Pancake Dinner
Exciting 60-Second Challenges

SUNDAY FEB 2 2025 | 4-6 PM
HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10610 Waterville Street Whitehouse OH 43571

REGISTER TO ATTEND



Fellowship Invites you to participate in our 1st Community of Christ Chili Cook-Off

On **Sunday, February 23rd** right here after service, we will be hosting our 1st CoC Chili Cook-Off! Sign-ups to compete are on the kiosk. Sign up with your name # and email **by Sunday, February 9th**. There is also a separate sign-up sheet for those not participating in the competition who want to be a taster and vote for their favorite chili. All are welcome to taste, and vote for our C of C Chili Cook-Off winner. Please join us and invite a friend!





Announcements



Quilt Ministry First & Third Tuesday of the Month

If anyone would like to join us in 2025, we will meet on the first and third Tuesdays in the fellowship hall from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or later if needed. No experience necessary!

All are WELCOME!!,

Rose Ackerman and Joan Bierley, co-chairs
LWR Quilt Ministry

I ♥
Quilting



Community of Christ Book Club

BOOK CLUB



2025 Book Club!

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

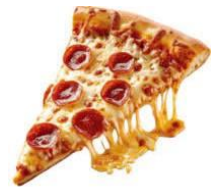
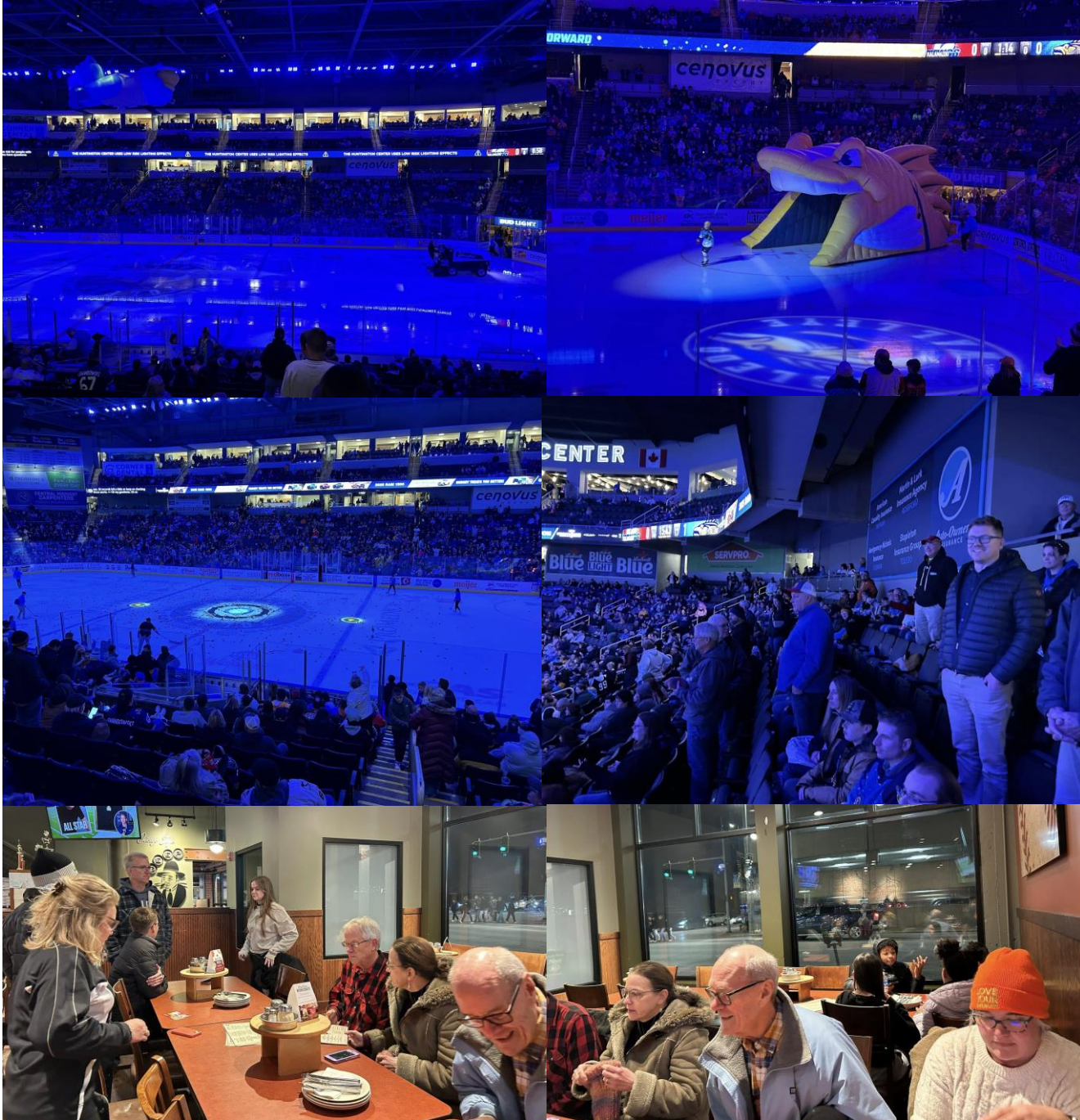


Fellowship Fun!



Community of Christ Enjoys Walleye Hockey and Pizza!

A great time was had by all at the Walleye hockey game, followed by pizza at Pizzapapalis! Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who helped organize the event!

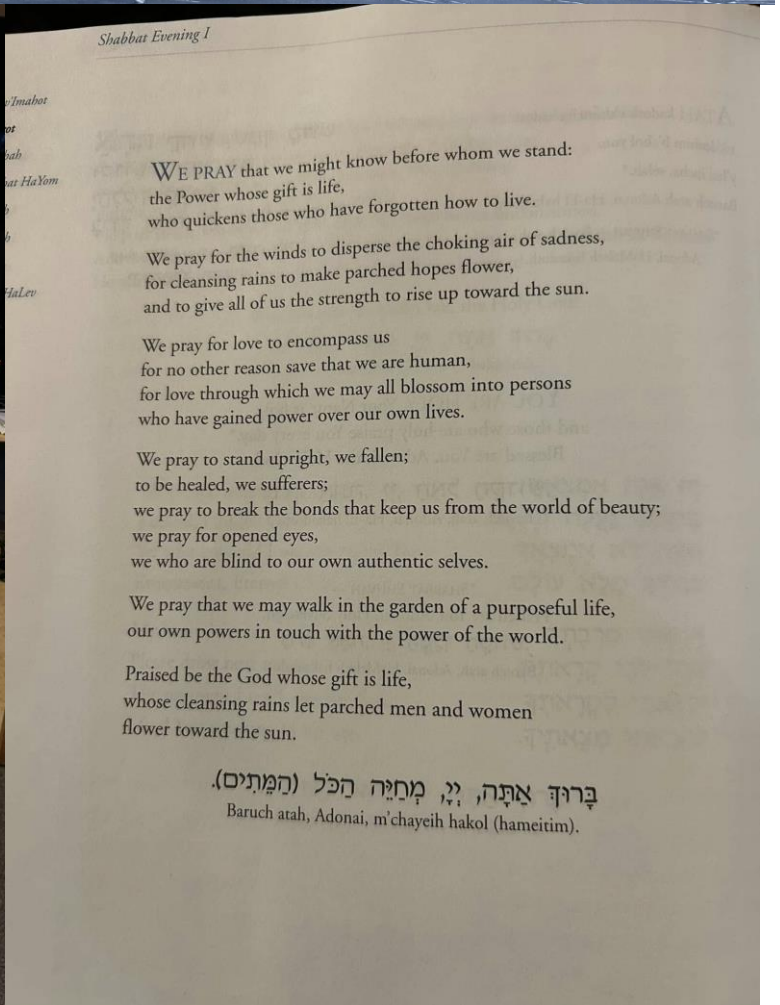
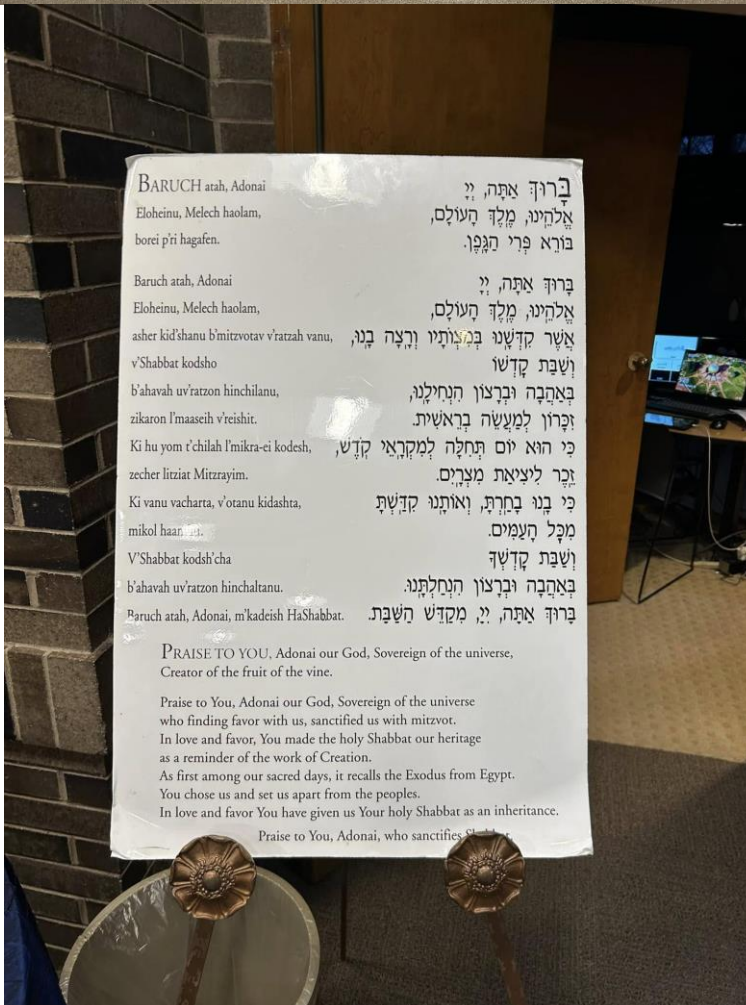




Confirmation Class



What a great experience our confirmation class and adults had at Temple Shomer Emunim in Sylvania for their sabbath service this evening! Thanks for their hospitality and the chance to learn about the faith of our neighbors in the Jewish faith!



BARUCH atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
borei p'ri hagafen.

Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'ratzah vanu,
v'Shabbat kodsho
b'ahavah uv'ratzon hinchilanu,
zikaron l'maaseih v'reishit.
Ki hu yom t'chilah l'mikra-ei kodesh,
zecher litziat Mitzrayim.
Ki vanu vacharta, v'otanu kidashta,
mikol haan...
V'Shabbat kodshi cha
b'ahavah uv'ratzon hinchilatanu.
Baruch atah, Adonai, m'kadesh HaShabbat.

ברוך אתה, יי
אלהינו, מלך העולם,
בורא פרי הגפן.

ברוך אתה, יי
אלהינו, מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצוותיו ורצה בנו,
ושבת קדשו
באהבה וברצון הנחילנו,
וזכרון למעשה בראשית.
כי הוא יום תחלה למקראי קדש,
זכר לציאת מצרים.
כי בנו בחרת, ואותנו קדשת
מכל העמים.
ושבת קדשך
באהבה וברצון הנחלתנו.
ברוך אתה, יי, מקדש השבת.

PRAISE TO YOU, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,
Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Praise to You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe
who finding favor with us, sanctified us with mitzvot.
In love and favor, You made the holy Shabbat our heritage
as a reminder of the work of Creation.
As first among our sacred days, it recalls the Exodus from Egypt.
You chose us and set us apart from the peoples.
In love and favor You have given us Your holy Shabbat as an inheritance.
Praise to You, Adonai, who sanctifies

Shabbat Evening I

WE PRAY that we might know before whom we stand:
the Power whose gift is life,
who quickens those who have forgotten how to live.

We pray for the winds to disperse the choking air of sadness,
for cleansing rains to make parched hopes flower,
and to give all of us the strength to rise up toward the sun.

We pray for love to encompass us
for no other reason save that we are human,
for love through which we may all blossom into persons
who have gained power over our own lives.

We pray to stand upright, we fallen;
to be healed, we sufferers;
we pray to break the bonds that keep us from the world of beauty;
we pray for opened eyes,
we who are blind to our own authentic selves.

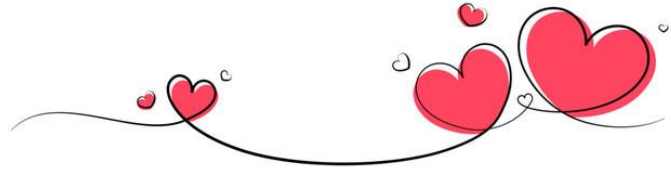
We pray that we may walk in the garden of a purposeful life,
our own powers in touch with the power of the world.

Praised be the God whose gift is life,
whose cleansing rains let parched men and women
flower toward the sun.

ברוך אתה, יי, מחייה הכל (המתים).
Baruch atah, Adonai, m'chayehih hakol (hameitim).

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.
Dec	\$17,300	\$12,563	\$4,737
YTD	\$166,680	\$150,756	\$15,924
2024 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Dec	\$47,492	\$30,318	\$17,174
YTD	\$403,189	\$399,540	\$3,649

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!

Stewardship Committee Introduces "Community of Christ: In Focus" Video Series

The Stewardship Committee invites you to explore our new series of short videos, released monthly, that highlight various aspects of our ministry life here at Community of Christ. We're calling it *Community of Christ: In Focus*. Each video provides a deeper look into the many facets of our congregational life. You can watch the videos on our website by clicking on the "Community of Christ: In Focus" tab on the homepage or find them on our Facebook page and YouTube. Future videos will spotlight how our gifts of time, talent, and treasure support the work we do, giving you a clearer understanding of the many ways God is active in our community. We encourage you to check them out, share them with a friend, and discover how our shared resources are used for God's work in the world!

Happy Birthday

Jeff Baden	02/01
Nancy Shaw	02/01
Emily Pollock	02/04
Jerry Jones	02/07
James Gill	02/12
Jeff Bright	02/13
Sharon Miller	02/14
Lou Ann Brettel	02/18
Mark Petrell	02/18
Wayne King	02/20

Laurie Mauro	02/20
Vince Mauro	02/20
Michelle Reid	02/20
Irene Rang	02/21
Barbara Thober	02/23
Jonah Dick	02/27
LuAnn Shuman	02/27
Emma Abraham	02/28
Mike Carman	02/28
Ronald Atkins	02/28

thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Generosity and Support

We want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed food donations, lent a willing hand, and shared your cooking talents for our freezer meal project. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make 83 casseroles and 15 containers of soup, all of which will be a tremendous blessing to those in need.

Your kindness and dedication have made a significant impact, and we are so grateful for the spirit of community you've shown. May these meals bring comfort and warmth to those who receive them, and may God continue to bless you for your willingness to serve.

Thank you again for your support and heart for this important mission!



Community of Christ Lutheran Church

thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Luther Home of Mercy

5810 N. Main Street • P.O. Box 187 • Williston, Ohio 43468-0187
(419) 836-7741 FAX (419) 972-4357
A Ministry to persons with developmental disabilities - Since 1928

Terri Rodriguez
President and CEO

Rev. Donald L. Wukotich
Director Emeritus

December 26, 2024

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

6517 Finzel Road
Whitehouse, OH 43571-9577

Thanks to your generous donations for the *Adopt A Resident* program, Elizabeth H., Ramona C., Betty B., Steven E., Jimmy D., Joel E., Brian B., Cameron B., Christopher A., Jason W., James J., John T., Rosie R., Marsha V., Leslie S., Helen R., Michele O., Kim K., Mary G., Margret G., their Christmas was brighter! Each donation is a testament to your kindness and compassion.

Luther Home of Mercy is deeply grateful for your kindness and support. It warms our heart to know that, together, we are spreading joy and offering hope to all we serve.

Thank you once again for your generosity! Wishing you blessings, love and happiness in the new year!

Sincerely,

Lisa McNary

Lisa McNary



Thank you to everyone who purchased the 2-holiday books, 'A Wondrous Night', and 'Tiny Candle', this past Christmas season. \$559.80 was raised for the church and designated to the Toolbox Ministry for the Furnace Project! Chad Ackerman

Toolbox Ministry Furnace Project

We are thrilled to announce that the donations for the Toolbox Furnace Project have exceeded our expectations! A little over \$7,000 was raised, and we are deeply grateful for your generous donations. The excess funds will support our next community project, furthering our mission and outreach efforts. Thank you for your compassion, support, and commitment to making a difference and "Making Jesus Known" in what we do!

Church Office Hours

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

419-877-0607

secretary@commofchrist.org

www.commofchrist.org

6517 Finzel Rd., Whitehouse, OH 43571



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church