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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



April 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.

Outreach
 April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Worship & Music
 April 3, 10:00 a.m.

Visitation Ministry
 April 7, 10:30 a.m.

Concert
 April 8, 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
 April 8, 7:00 p.m.

Christian
Education
 April 14, 6:30 p.m.

Social Action
 April 16, 10:00 a.m.

Stewardship
 April 29, 6:00 p.m.

Choir
 Wednesdays
 7:45 p.m.

Bell Choir
 Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

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

Pastor's Letter, April 2025—What Kind of Story Is This?

There was a weird little movie that came out in 2006 called *Stranger than Fiction*, which starred Will Ferrell as a man who started hearing a voice narrating his every action, thought, and feeling. I'll spare you all the plot points, but at one point, he decides that what he needs in order to cope with the voice of an author narrating his life story as it happens is to consult with a literary critic, who offers some advice. The literature expert says, "You have to find out if you are in a comedy, or a tragedy." In other words, he has to learn what kind of story he is in, in order to make sense of what is happening to him.

While much of the rest of that movie was pretty forgettable, that little scene has stayed with me for nearly two decades since it came out. *You need to know what kind of story you are in if you want to understand what is happening.* Of course! So... what kind of story are we in? Not just individually you or me, but all of us? What kind of a story is the saga of the universe? What kind of a narrative is the sum total of human history? Does creation end in tragedy, or come to a joyful resolution like a good comedy? And of course, along with that question comes another: how would we know?

I think about those questions every year in this part of the church's great drama that moves us from the dusty wilderness of Ash Wednesday to the betrayal and pleading in the Garden to the stark sorrow of the cross, and then leads us onward, impossibly, to an empty tomb. You and I know the plot points of that narrative; they no longer surprise us as they might have when we first heard the story of Jesus. But there is still this powerful shift in the narrative from the awful tragedy of Thursday's abandonment and Friday's grief to the uncontainable joy of Easter Sunday morning. And for us as Christians, this is the central story that reminds us who we are, because of *Whose* we are. We find the meaning of our own individual journeys and our life stories within the Great Story of God in Christ Jesus, and that story helps us make sense of everything else around us.

So... what kind of story is this one? What do you call the story of an itinerant homeless rabbi who washes the feet of his disciples (including the one who betrayed him), who prays forgiveness for his executioners, who stares down the political powers of Rome and the religious powers of Jerusalem, who gets nailed between thieves on a cross, who promises Paradise to a crook dying beside him, who gets buried in a borrowed tomb, and who rises again as the sun is coming up on the first day of the new week? What kind of a story is this, that plunges so deep into tragedy and also rises up to utterly divine comedy?



From Pastor Steve Continued....



It's a love story.

Or maybe, more accurately, it is THE Love Story.

That's why we retell it year after year, why we rehearse the movements of the cross and resurrection every Sunday, why we recall that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate" and "on the night in which he was betrayed took bread and broke it." It's why we muster up the courage and strength to face Gethsemane and Golgotha every year in Holy Week, and why we break out the alleluias and anthems for Easter. We have come to recognize that this story is a *love story*—about the love of God, willing to go to any lengths for our sake, even through death and out the other side into new creation, in order that we might belong to God forever. When we know that we are just that beloved, we find a new courage to share the sorrows of others, a new energy to love and serve God in gratitude, and a new bravery to make sure everyone else on God's green earth knows about such love, too. It's true: we figure out how to understand our place in the world when we at last discover what kind of story we are in.

And because we are caught up in the story of the cross and resurrection, we know that the universe is not only headed for the happiest of happy endings, but we ourselves find our place in the Love Story of God.

Looking forward to sharing in this story all over again with you this Holy Week and Easter,
Pastor Steve

Crazy Faith Talk Podcast News: A New Online Home and New Series for Lent

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 now on Spotify!** If you like to listen to music or podcasts using the Spotify app, you can find *Crazy Faith Talk* there! *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.

In April, we'll first conclude our current Lent series called "When the Bible Flips the Script," looking at times throughout the Scriptures when God overturned expectations, transformed someone in dramatic ways, or reversed the usual order of the day. We'll explore stories like Jacob, Joseph, and Jonah, along with how the cross and resurrection are one more great reversal in the story of salvation. And then after Easter, look for a new series highlighting books and resources for making faith connections with your children, grandchildren, or any other kids in your life! Check it out with weekly posts on our church Facebook page or Twitter/X (@BeingGraced), by searching for "*Crazy Faith Talk*" on Spotify, or on your smart speaker!

Holy Week Services

Join us for Holy Week Worship on the Journey to the Cross and Resurrection!

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 (April 13-20).

Palm Sunday (8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.)—April 13

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 April 13.

Maundy Thursday — *Footwashing Forgiveness, and Holy Communion*—April 17, 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. resurrection but 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*—April 18, 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*—April 19, 7:00 p.m. at neighboring congregation **Zion Lutheran in Waterville**

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 participate. We hope you'll join us for this special event that is unlike any other service in the church's year!

This year we'll once again include our confirmation students to be a part of the storytelling of the Easter Vigil, and since we have a joint confirmation class this year with students from Zion in Waterville, we'll be letting them host the service and all are welcome to join in this collaboration of Community of Christ and Zion working together to put together this truly unique worship service. See Pastor Steve or Vicar Natalie with any questions and join us for this powerful service on Holy Saturday!

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, with our kids' Easter Egg Hunt in between at 9:00 a.m.!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Adult Forum this April: *Imaging the Word*



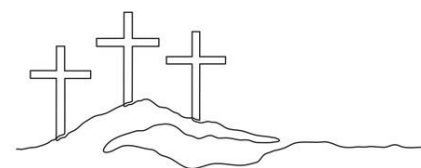
Beginning this April (starting on April 13, Palm/Passion Sunday), our next series in the Sunday morning Adult Forum will be a series we're calling *Imaging the Word: Symbols, Icons, and Art Connecting with Faith*. Running from about 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, we'll explore some of the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

Midweek Evening Prayer Lenten Series: *Love Beyond Boundaries*

Continuing this April on Wednesday, April 2 and 9, we'll be offering our Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m. and Lenten Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. If you've already attended this Lent, you've already had the chance to experience beautiful new songs and refrains meant to re-center us in this season on the love of God and to bring our weariness to God in prayer and find peace at the end of the day. We hope you'll join us for our final two Lenten Wednesdays, focused on the seasonal theme "Love Beyond Boundaries" as part of our 2025 **Life on the Edge: Christianity Beyond Our Comfort Zones** year.

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

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





Worship Volunteer Schedule April 2025

Week	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Nate Yokum	Kevin Swagler
Bulletin 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Marsha Cochran	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Camera 10:00	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Rick Yokum
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Bev Fischer	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Bev Fischer	Kari Swagler
Greeter 8:00 East	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 8:00 West	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 East	Natalie Rilling	Dean Nofzinger	Marsha Cochran	Rob Kohntopp
Greeter 10:00 West	Chris Rilling	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp
Lector 8:00	Volunteer needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Lector 10:00	Volunteer needed	Marsha Cochran	Nate Yokum	Ron Atkins
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Don Schroeder	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
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 03/17/2025 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!



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:

MARTINA BENTON, LISA BOLTZ, DEBBIE CARMEN, SHIRLEY COFER, VIRGINIA DILLON, SUSIE DONNAL, JIM & SUE ENK, LARRY GEER, PAULA GRUHLER, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, TOM JENNINGS, SAM KENNEY, TRISTAN KIMMEY, CAROL MASON, SANDY MCPHERSON, FRANK O'KONSKI, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, DICK RISON, 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 Karen Schroeder and Carl Gottwald in our prayers. May the Lord bring them peace and comfort in the days to come.



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



Outreach

Next Meeting Date
April 1 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
April 3 @ 10:00 a.m.



VISITATION MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date
April 7 @ 10:30 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
April 7 @ 6:30 p.m.



Concert Committee

Next Meeting Date
April 8 @ 6:00 p.m.



Church Council Meeting

Next Meeting Date
April 8 @ 7:00 p.m.



SOCIAL ACTION
MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date
April 16 @ 10:00 a.m.



Stewardship
A WAY OF LIVING

Next Meeting Date
April 29 @ 6:00 p.m.



COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**EASTER EGG
HUNT**

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
AT 9:00 A.M.
KIDS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

STARTING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Social Action Ministry Announcements

Social Action Ministry Invites You to “Have Mercy” and Share It Boldly This Lent

Continuing through the first half of April and the final weeks of Lent, Social Action Committee invites you to wear the message “Have mercy” with a pin or display it somewhere with a sticker, both as part of our calling as Christians to practice mercy and show compassion to all, and also as a way to support the efforts of Isaiah 117 House to create a safe and welcoming place for children entering foster care in Lucas County. As we shared starting last month, these new stickers and lapel buttons, each featuring the simple message, “Have mercy,” are still available in the Gathering Space throughout Lent, and we would invite your suggested donation for one of \$5.00, which can just go in the slotted box alongside the display, and all our proceeds will go to the ministry of Isaiah 117 House as they seek to show mercy to children in Northwestern Ohio who are going through foster placement. We hope you’ll boldly put one of these stickers or buttons on something you wear or carry around with you as a way to start a conversation, prompt a faith conversation, or to remind you both of God’s grace and our calling to be merciful people. Get yours in the Gathering Space and help support Isaiah 117 House!

Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry Seeks Volunteers and Support

One of the most basic ways we can love our neighbors is to make sure they have enough to eat. And here at Community of Christ, we are connected to a number of important ministries that help make sure nobody goes hungry. Whether you have helped with making a meal at Salem Lutheran in the North End on a third Tuesday, or you have donated food in one of the bins in the hallway at church for a local food pantry, or helped bag the weekend food bags for school students back in March at the Islamic Food Bank, we are blessed to be able to partner with so many good organizations who are each meeting different needs. One more that is right in our own backyard is the Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry, and they distribute collections of food twice a month to people right in our own community—and they can use our support.

Our Pastor Steve recently sat down with AWC FM organizer and contact, Ron Shoemaker, who shared that they could use volunteers in several ways if you are feeling moved to help be a part of their work. One way is simply for volunteer hands and labor on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (they bag and organize food in the mornings and distribute between 4-6 p.m. at the end of the day on those dates). They can also use specialized volunteers, if you have skills with finance and bookkeeping or statistics and record-keeping, or if you have a truck and trailer available to help be a part of their volunteer crews to pick up food from the Toledo Food Bank downtown. If you want to support their work with resources, they are most easily able to use monetary donations because their connections to the Food Bank allow them to purchase far more than we can, getting food items sometimes for pennies on the dollar compared with what individuals or households can get at our local grocery stores. If you are interested in helping out, you can reach out to the Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry on Facebook or by contacting Ron Shoemaker to get connected to their volunteer coordinator (rshoe76@gmail.com). AWC FM is now located at a new site near us, at Community of Christ at the corner of Finzel and 64 (officially 10075 Waterville Swanton Road). If you have time, resources, and passion to help feed neighbors, this could be a great way to offer these gifts for God’s work!



Concert News



Saturday
April 12, 2025
7:00 - 9:00+
Community of Christ
Lutheran Church
6517 Finzel Road
Whitehouse, Ohio
419-877-0607

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

Swingmania

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

or just listen to
some great
big band music



SILENT AUCTION ALSO

Auction proceeds benefit Genacross
Lutheran Social Services



Swingmania Concert and Burger Bar Night

Get ready for a good time coming up later this spring, as Community of Christ hosts a burger bar dinner, charitable auction, and a concert and dance featuring the music of Swingmania, all on one big night! Mark your calendars now for the evening of April 12, when we'll have a dinner open to church members at 5:00 p.m. featuring burgers, chips, coleslaw, and ice cream, followed by a charitable auction event at 6:00 p.m. with a wide assortment of prizes whose proceeds will benefit Genacross Lutheran Services, and then a 7:00 p.m. concert with room for dancing, all to the musical stylings of Swingmania! If that sounds like a good time to you, then get your tickets as soon as possible! On Sunday mornings, the concert committee will have a table in the gathering space for both the dinner portion and the concert portion of the night, so that you can participate in either or both. The wider community will be able to get tickets for the concert as well (dinner is limited to Community of Christ folks because of space limitations), whether on Sundays or through the church office during the week. Meal tickets will be \$10.00 for an adult, \$5.00 for kids 10 and under, and then concert tickets will be \$25.00 for an individual, \$40.00 for a couple, and \$10.00 for kids (again, 10 and under). The whole evening's events will also help to benefit both our Community of Christ Building Fund as well as Lutheran Disaster Relief, as with other concerts hosted by the Concert Committee. In addition, we'll have a charity basket auction with prizes and items available to be won, whose proceeds will benefit Genacross Lutheran Services. It will be a full night of big festivities, and we hope you can join us! Tickets will be available until Sunday, April 6, in the Gathering Space, or call the church office to order tickets, and plan to join us for a great night on Saturday, April 12!

Visitation Ministry News



Conversations and More - Save the Dates!

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

- Monday, April 7 & Friday, April 25
- Monday, May 5 & Friday, May 30

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

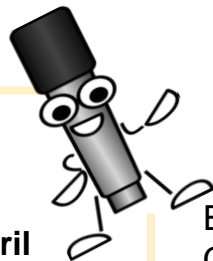
We'll be taking a summer break, but we'll be back with a lunch gathering on Tuesday, September 9th!

Feel free to bring a friend along!



“Restocking the Freezer”

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 3rd**, and join us as we “Restock the Freezer!” We’re inviting volunteers to help prepare and or donate items for casseroles and soups, which will be frozen and distributed to families in need throughout the coming months. Your contribution will make a lasting impact on our neighbors, providing them with comforting, homemade meals when they need them most. Whether you're an experienced cook or just looking for a way to give back, we need your help! This event is a perfect way to show support for our community. Your donations will be appreciated. Let's work together to fill those freezers with warmth and kindness this April 3rd!



Monthly Singing Visit to Blue Creek Nursing Home—April 9 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 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!



The Outreach Committee, together with Social Action Ministry, is partnering with Genacross Family and Youth Services to provide pool supplies to the youth center located in Liberty Center. Family and Youth Services works with children and youth ages 6-17 by providing programs that offer a structured daily routine, including teaching social skills, coping skills, and independent living skills. Their goal is to create behavioral changes in the children and youth that enable them to function productively and appropriately within their communities. They currently serve 30 children and youth at the Liberty Center location.

The center is renovating the outside pool for the kids to use this summer and is in need of the following items: Goggles -Outdoor play equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, frisbee, sidewalk chalk) - Pool toys and games (no pool noodles) - Arm Floats - Life Jackets - Diving sticks - Pool towels

The committee will be accepting items from Easter Sunday (April 20th) until Mother's Day (May 11th). You may also make monetary donations to Community of Christ Lutheran Church and show "Liberty Center Youth Pool Project" in the memo line. If you have any questions, please reach out to any member of the Outreach Committee. You may also contact Michael George, Executive Director of Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, at MiGeorge@Genacross.org.

Swingmania Ticket Auction Benefits Genacross Lutheran Social Services

We invite you to participate in our ticket auction at Swingmania by donating a basket, and or purchasing tickets the night of the auction! Please bring your completed basket to the church office no later than **Wednesday, April 2nd**. Baskets should be ready to be placed on the auction tables. Thank you to those who have already donated items!

Here's how the auction will work:

- Participants can purchase auction tickets on the night of the event.
- Tickets are \$1 each, or you can get 25 tickets for \$20.
- After purchasing your tickets, you can place as many as you wish in the box next to the item(s) you'd like to win.
- Winners will be announced during the event.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office. Thank you for your support! All proceeds from the auction will benefit Genacross Lutheran Social Services.

Easter Lily Orders

Celebrate Easter by ordering a beautiful Lily for our Easter morning services! You can honor or remember a loved one by dedicating your flower in their name.

To meet vendor deadlines, all orders must be submitted to the church no later than Sunday, April 6. Please pick up an envelope from the center table in the gathering space to place your order. Thank you!



Just a reminder! Sunday, April 6, is the last weekend to place your order for Easter Lilies. Make sure to order today!





Announcements

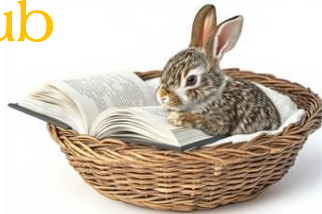


2025 Altar Flower sponsorship weekends available for selection!

Tags and envelopes can be found in the hallway to the left as you enter through the front doors. For office tracking, please leave the tag on the bulletin board after choosing your weekend; do not take it home. To ensure your sponsorship is included in the bulletin, please submit your payment envelope by the Sunday before your chosen weekend. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office. Your support is greatly appreciated—thank you!



Community of Christ Book Club

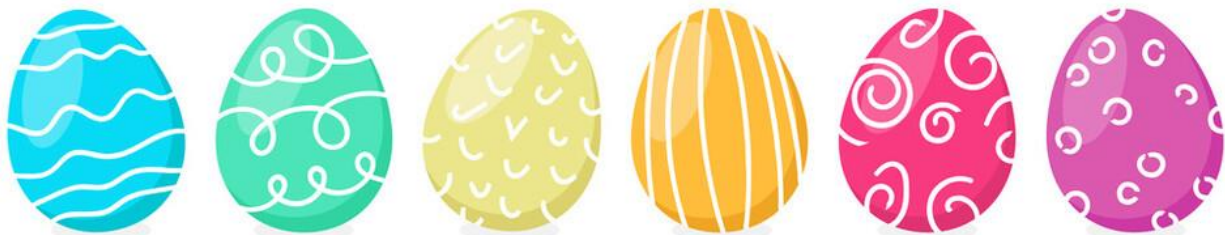


April 15 - *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Reid Jenkins
May 20 - *Grey Wolf* by Louise Penny
June 17 - *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelley Van Pelt
Questions??? Call or Text: Kathryn Whitacre 567-395-9444

The Ladies Lunch Bunch!



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





Fellowship Fun!



Thank You to Our Dinners for 8 Participants!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Dinners for 8 Fellowship event on Saturday, March 15. These dinners are all about building connections, sharing good food, and creating lasting memories, and thanks to you, we've been able to do just that. We appreciate your willingness to engage with others, foster new friendships, and contribute to the warm, welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to more opportunities to gather together in the future. Stay tuned for upcoming events, and once again, thank you for making Dinners for 8 a success!





Lenten Art Projects





Lenten Art Projects



Before our Lenten Wednesday Service on March 26, we were invited to take one of these tags, decorate it, and attach it to a water bottle. Then, we were encouraged to find someone to give it to—perhaps a postal carrier on a sunny day, the delivery person from UPS or FedEx, a neighbor working hard in their yard, or even a stranger you met while walking. Whoever that person was, it was an opportunity to share God's gracious invitation: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters...", as we heard in the evening's service. If you didn't get a chance to participate and would like to, you can pick up a tag the next time you're at church and add it to one of your water bottles to share in this special invitation!





Confirmation Class



Thank you to our Confirmation students who were able to make and bake communion bread as they learned about the sacraments in class. We were blessed to be able to share in this at our Sunday Service!



Loving Our Neighbors



We had a great group of volunteers helping pack weekend food bags with folks from across the community today at the Islamic Food Bank of Toledo—all together they packed more than 600 bags today! Thanks to our volunteers who helped feed the kids—way to love your neighbor!



YOU DID IT!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Cookies for Kairos has exceeded our goal of 15,600 cookies!! Not only will each man receive two dozen home-baked cookies, but there will be plenty of cookies for their weekly Bible studies! We are beyond thankful to your church for extravagantly blessing these men! All cookies are currently frozen and will be lovingly distributed at their retreat the weekend of April 3-6. We ask that you continue to pray for the blessing that these cookies and this time will be for these men. May God graciously bless you as you have graciously blessed others! To God be the glory!



Concert March 23, 2025



It was such a pleasure to enjoy a concert from the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event possible!



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. 

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

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!

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Happy Birthday



Eunice Kronberg	04/01	Ron Hetherwick	04/08	Matt Dewitz	04/22
Kristen Schuchmann	04/02	Sharon Pruetter	04/08	Ayva Bartley	04/23
Matthew Smigelski	04/03	Tyler Britsch	04/08	Dennis Wixey	04/24
Clara Ollenrenshaw	04/04	Karen Petrell	04/09	Sandra Elsholz	04/24
Karole Sigg	04/04	Robin Fritz	04/13	Dorothy Petrell	04/25
Thomas Abraham	04/04	Addison Carman	04/14	Sandra Whaley	04/25
Carl Brosten	04/05	Katie Pollock	04/14	Shirley Cofer	04/25
Gene Phillips	04/06	Andrew Smigelski	04/16	Marlene LaChine	04/26
Joanne Gottwald	04/06	Alex Swagler	04/18	Michelle Gebhart	04/27
Gary Wise	04/07	Shirley Miller	04/19	Win Sturgeon	04/28
Pastor Ron Heinz	04/07	Matthew Yokum	04/20	Chris Rilling	04/30
Cole Ackerman	04/08	Robert Keogh	04/20	Nicholas Kronmann	04/30

Thank you 😊

Thank you so much for
the generous Breakfast!!
Your kindness & thoughtfulness
truly made my
day! We are lucky to
have you in our community.
-Marissa Dazeel (AWJH
teacher)



Like us on Facebook
Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Church Office Hours

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

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