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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Making Jesus Known*



**May 2025**

## What's Ahead

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

**Summer Worship**  
**Service Starts**  
**Sunday, May 25**  
**9:00 a.m.**

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

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

**Worship & Music**  
May 1, 10:00 a.m.

**Visitation Ministry**  
May 5, 10:30 a.m.

**Social Action**  
May 7, 10:00 a.m.

**Christian**  
**Education**  
May 12, 6:30 p.m.

**Concert**  
May 13, 6:00 p.m.

**Council Meeting**  
May 13, 7:00 p.m.

**Outreach**  
May 20, 6:00 p.m.

**Worship Services**  
Available on the net  
at  
[www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org)



## Pastor's Letter, May 2025—On the Edge of New Creation

The early church wasn't bad at math—they were just seeing the world differently in light of the resurrection of Jesus.

Here's what I mean: there's a delightfully quirky theme among some of the early church fathers and mothers who pay special attention to the day of the week on which Jesus was raised—Sunday, the traditional first day of the week in ancient Israel and Judaism. And that called to mind the creation story from Genesis 1, in which God begins creation on “the first day,” all the way through resting on the “seventh” day, which also corresponded to the day Jesus' body was resting in the borrowed tomb. So, they sometimes talked about Easter as the *eighth day*... of a seven-day week! In other words, they saw that the resurrection of Jesus was like the start of a whole new week, and yet the continuation of the first week of creation at the same time. It was, they came to see, the beginning of God's promised *new creation*. I've always loved that strange way of counting—of seeing Easter as the eighth day of a seven-day week—because it reminds me of how the resurrection has a way of blowing apart our old understanding and rearranging our previous assumptions about how the world works. The resurrection of Jesus means that God's new creation has begun. It certainly isn't in its fullness to our eyes, but it is real and irreversible, since Jesus is risen from the dead.

That's one of the things I love about these weeks after Easter Sunday, which are all still marked out as “Sundays of Easter” in the church's year. They remind us that the resurrection of Jesus wasn't just a one-time blip on the radar, after which the universe went back to “normal,” but rather, it begins God's new re-making of heaven and earth. The resurrection points us toward the scenes at the end of Revelation, when God comes to dwell with us and all things are made new. This Eastertide, we want to invite you to join us, well past when the Easter lilies have been taken home or lost their bloom, after the marshmallow Peeps are shriveled and hardened or have been gobbled up in your house, and after the last of that green cellophane grass has been swept up off the floors from the corners of the room. Join us on Sundays for a season-long look at how Jesus' resurrection opens us up to the beginning of God's New Creation—and how we get a foretaste of that new creation here and now. It happens every time a new child of God is brought to the waters of baptism... every time we are fed at the table of Jesus where he is made known in the breaking of the bread... every time we make the effort to care for a hungry neighbor, visit a lonely friend, make sure farm workers have decent gloves or supplies to do the hard work of harvesting, or teach a child about the way of Jesus. We get these little eruptions of Easter—these little in-breaking moments of the new heaven and new earth, which remind us that all our lives are lived *on the edge of new creation*. Join us this May to be a part of it, because Christ is risen—he is risen indeed!

Pastor Steve

# From Vicar Natalie Downs

## Further Reflections on Washing Feet

During Holy Week, my mom and I went to the nail salon I frequent, and during our time there, the nail techs, my mom, and I had a conversation about pedicures. The nail techs were sharing with us that people are so afraid sometimes of getting their feet cleaned. My nail tech said, "You know, it is a vulnerable thing to have your feet washed by someone, but I am happy to do it for people so they can feel better." She shared about how she felt it an honor to serve people in that way, especially the elderly. And while getting our nails done, all four of us began to talk about how Jesus washed feet and the radical nature of his actions towards his disciples, and how he followed with the command, "Love one another." That doing that very action was vulnerable, but transformative for the disciples, and is still moving and powerful for us today.

There is vulnerability in love. Because to love someone is to open yourself up to them. To walk beside them, to listen to their pain, be with them in their joys, and to bear with them in their struggles. And to let others love us is also vulnerable. Jesus modeled love throughout his ministry and the ultimate sacrifice on the cross, and the promise that we will not be alone because Jesus accompanies us to the very end.

As I am writing this today, I woke up to the news of the passing of Pope Francis. I spent the day reflecting on his impact on this world, not only in Catholicism, but throughout the vast religious and secular landscape. His ministry entered into the vulnerable spaces of their lives, and he opened himself to vulnerable acts as well as the pope, always being close to the people he served. He took Jesus' command to love seriously, which moved him to break down barriers and move people towards seeing our common humanity. He called and named people children of God, calling them to see that God's love ran deep for them, and named that love as a transformative force that shapes individuals in Christian service to one another and the world. Pope Francis, during Holy Week, was known to visit people in correctional facilities to wash their feet. As I went back and watched these videos, I am struck by his compassion, and his was after washing feet of looking up at the person in the eye with a smile on his face. A powerful moment of God's love and the Spirit's movement through love, humility, and service to those who may be, by society's standpoint, not deserving of such mercy. Pope Francis knew that shouting at people and making bold statements, dividing lines, was not the way to change hearts. It was love. Loving like Jesus. Love that opens doors, sits with people different from ourselves, listens to understand, and also speaks the truth in ways that invite conversation rather than break it down. We cannot solve the issues of today or the divisions we encounter if we cannot walk into the spaces of vulnerability and first hear Jesus' command: "Love one another." We cannot experience love if we are not open to receiving it from others and being vulnerable ourselves. The vulnerability that we are called to first is love. To love people. To remind ourselves that God loves them, too. To affirm our common humanity with one another by showing up and following Jesus' command.

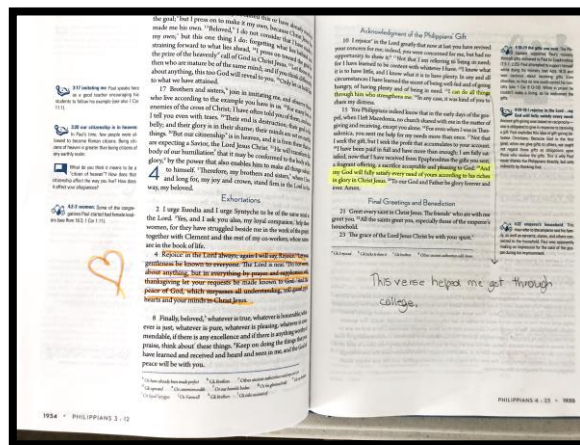


# GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

## Crazy Faith Talk Podcast News: New Series, "Child-like Faith," for Eastertide

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.

Our new series is called "Child-like Faith," and in it, we're taking a look at multimedia resources for children and youth that can connect with our faith or are compatible with discipleship for kids. From TV classics like Mister Rogers' Neighborhood and the talking tomatoes of VeggieTales to books and movies that share faith in a child-friendly way, we'll lift up some favorites and mention some lesser-known gems, which might be great resources to know for your own kids and grandchildren, or to check out for yourself. Listen in weekly and be a part of the conversation. 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!

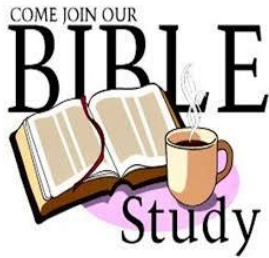


## Bibles For our Graduates

This spring, as the Class of 2025 graduates, Community of Christ will be recognizing our high school seniors and presenting them with gifts on behalf of the congregation. At the end of the school year, we'll have a moment in Sunday worship to acknowledge, honor, and pray for our graduates, and we'll be presenting them with their own "grown-up" Lutheran Study Bibles, in the hopes that these study Bibles will be a good resource for their faith journeys wherever life is taking them after high school. But this is where we need YOUR help as a congregation. We don't just want to send our grads out with Bibles, but with the wisdom and support of their church family, too. So, throughout the month of May, we will have those Bibles out on a table in the gathering space, and we'll invite YOU to help underline and highlight verses and passages in the Scriptures that have been important to YOU in your own faith journey. We hope that will mean that our graduates will face the next adventure of their lives knowing they are surrounded by the prayers of their church family and supported by the mentors and friends of our congregation. We would LOVE your help by adding your personal touch to these Bibles in the month of May so that we can present them as graduation gifts!



# GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES

## Adult Forum this April: Imaging the Word

Join us on Sunday mornings in May for our latest series in the Adult Forum, which we're calling *Imaging the Word: Symbols, Icons, and Art Connecting with Faith*. Running from about 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 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!

## Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (The Book of Judges)

Our Thursday Afternoon Bible study is back at 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays with a series we're calling "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," as the study of the Old Testament book of 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 in the Council Room (where the Thursday Bible Study usually meets already) at 1:00 p.m. to dig into the Word together!

Our Vicar Natalie got to be a part of leading the Synod's Chrism Liturgy as rostered leaders across the synod reaffirmed their vows in this annual tradition! Way to go, Vicar Natalie!



# Worship Volunteer Schedule

## May 2025

| Week                               | May 4                       | May 11           | May 18                    | May 25, 9:00 a.m. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00</b>       | Josef Perkins / Teresa Loga | Teresa Loga      | Laurie Mauro /Teresa Loga | None Needed       |
| <b>Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00/9:00</b> | Volunteer Needed            | Volunteer Needed | Kevin Swagler             | Teresa Loga       |
| <b>Bulletin 8:00</b>               | Volunteer Needed            | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed          | None Needed       |
| <b>Bulletin 10:00</b>              | Kevin Swagler               | Volunteer Needed | Marsha Cochran            | Volunteer Needed  |
| <b>Camera 10:00</b>                | Neil Raymond                | Sarah Rockwell   | Kevin Swagler             | Volunteer Needed  |
| <b>Communion Prep/Clean 8:00</b>   | Josef Perkins               | Becky King       | Volunteer Needed          | None Needed       |
| <b>Communion Prep/Clean 10:00</b>  | Susan Raymond               | Jill Kohntopp    | Volunteer Needed          | Volunteer Needed  |
| <b>Greeter 8:00 East</b>           | Rick Metcalf                | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed          | None Needed       |
| <b>Greeter 8:00 West</b>           | Linda Metcalf               | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed          | None Needed       |
| <b>Greeter 10:00 East</b>          | Volunteer Needed            | Dean Nofzinger   | Marsha Cochran            | Rob Kohntopp      |
| <b>Greeter 10:00 West</b>          | Volunteer Needed            | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed          | Jill Kohntopp     |
| <b>Lector 8:00</b>                 | Josef Perkins               | Teresa Loga      | Cheryl Fischer            | None Needed       |
| <b>Lector 10:00</b>                | Tina Baden                  | Marsha Cochran   | Ron Atkins                | Teresa Loga       |
| <b>Worship Asst 8:00</b>           | Josef Perkins               | Cheryl Fischer   | Laurie Mauro              | None Needed       |
| <b>Worship Asst 10:00</b>          | Volunteer Needed            | Kevin Swagler    | Don Schroeder             | Teresa Loga       |
| <b>Verger 8:00</b>                 | Volunteer Needed            | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed          | None Needed       |
| <b>Verger 10:00</b>                | Volunteer Needed            | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed          | Volunteer Needed  |

**\*\*Volunteer list as of 04/18/2025. 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](http://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!



We lift up the family of Marie Sheets in our prayers. May the Lord bring them peace and comfort in the days to come.



We joyfully welcomed Marek Damien Boytim into the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Easter Sunday, April 20. May God bless and guide him throughout his spiritual journey.



### 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.



# CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



## Next Meeting Date

May 1 @ 10:00 a.m.



VISITATION MINISTRY

## Next Meeting Date

May 5 @ 10:30 a.m.



## Next Meeting Date

May 7 @ 10:00 a.m.



## Next Meeting Date

May 12 @ 6:30 p.m.



## Next Meeting Date

May 13 @ 6:00 p.m.



## Next Meeting Date

May 13 @ 7:00 p.m.



## Next Meeting Date

May 20 @ 7:00 p.m.

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## Summer Spiritual Practice group

This summer, as part of Vicar Natalie's internship project, we will be offering a weekly Summer Spiritual Practice group. The goal of this group is to learn a variety of ways to pray and draw close to God and to contribute to the NW Ohio Synod's theme of the Year of Listening. The spiritual practice group will meet on **Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.** in the fellowship hall starting **June 5<sup>th</sup> and ending August 28<sup>th</sup>** (no class July 3rd). There will be a variety of pastors from the community who will help teach and lead the spiritual practice, including Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Pastor Sarah Schaaf (NW Ohio Synod), Pastor Warren Clifton (Hope United Methodist - Whitehouse), Pastor Matt Musteric (St. Peter's Lutheran - Martin/St. Luke's Lutheran- Curtis), Vicar Jacinda Jones (St. John's Lutheran - Findlay), Pastor Chris Hanley (Glenwood Lutheran Church - Toledo), Pastor Meg Boger (Zion Lutheran - Waterville), Laurie Mauro, Pastor Steve Bond, and Vicar Natalie. Some spiritual practices include Taizé worship, centering prayer, praying with beads, visio divina, praying the labyrinth, Legos as spiritual practice, art, walking meditation - prairie meadow, improv, hymn singing.

This is an *intergenerational group*, meaning all ages are encouraged and welcome to attend! For some practices, kids will break off into a separate group. Sign-ups for this event will be available at the kiosk or in SignUp Genius at [www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org) by clicking on the "Worship & Events Signups" button starting in May. We request that you RSVP for the dates you are planning to attend, so we can plan for supplies. If any kids will be attending, please enter how many and their ages, or 0 if not applicable.



# Social Action Ministry



## Bridge of Hope



Fellow Christians, meet Destinee Chapa, she runs Bridge of Hope at the Hayes Memorial United Methodist Church in Fremont, OH. She states it's "my passion". She assists migrant workers with a food pantry, resources, and outreach to the Hispanic community and seasonal migrants.

Destinee sources most of her food from food banks, which Federal funds have been greatly reduced. Since the cost of eggs has gone up, Destinee states that it is strongly impacting her budget.

If you are able, they need some resources to assist in these endeavors.



Items needed are:

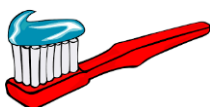
- **empty egg cartons** (Eggs are purchased in bulk and then divided into egg cartons that are donated.) Some supplies were taken on Monday, April 21. Destinee was **very thankful** for all the empty egg cartons and other supplies.
- plastic laundry baskets
- deodorant
- detergent
- lunch boxes
- new pillows
- can openers
- dry beans
- dry rice
- thinner long-sleeve shirts
- toothbrushes and paste
- sunscreen
- new or gently used pillowcases
- new or gently used towels & wash clothe
- new or gently used drink jugs
- hats, socks, work gloves, sunglasses
- toilet paper & paper towels



**Please place any donations in the box in the Gathering space by June 1, 2025. Thank you!**

We are a nation of immigrants. What would happen to our food supply without the seasonal migrants?

They are the marginalized; Jesus wants us to care for those who are vulnerable.





# Visitation Ministry News



## Conversations and More - Save the Dates!

Join us for engaging conversations and more on 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!

## Visitation Ministry Hosts End-of-Life Questions Workshop May 3 at 9:00 a.m.

It can be scary or anxious to have conversations about death and dying, especially when we are talking with loved ones or think about details like our wishes for arrangements, choices for funerals, or even questions about organ donation, cremation, and traditional burial. But as the good Mister Rogers used to say, "When something is mentionable, it becomes manageable." In other words, when we create a time and space to talk, even difficult subjects can become easier to engage with, especially when we know we are not alone. That's why the Visitation Ministry is hosting a workshop open to all on the morning of Saturday, May 3, to explore questions and topics related to the end of life, including planning for funerals, frequently asked questions, and how we address this subject with family members. Join us at Community of Christ from 9:00-11:30 a.m. for a chance to learn, discuss, and bring your questions. We'll also be able to share details about our usual practices for funeral services and meals here at Community of Christ, and we'll offer a chance for any who wants to think through their own wishes for service details to do so. Maybe this is a subject you've been putting off thinking about, or maybe you've just needed a reason to finally sit down with loved ones and talk through your wishes. But we hope that this workshop can be helpful for you, and we'd invite you to join us on May 3 to find out more. You can sign up at the kiosk in the Gathering Space.

## Monthly Singing Visit Blue Creek Nursing Home May 13 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 April 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 May 13 at 10:00 a.m., or if you have questions, see Cinda Pontsler, Cheryl Fischer, or Pastor Steve!

*Thank you for  
all that I received  
for Easter  
Carol Newman*

## Thank you!

Bernie Mank sends her heartfelt thanks for the cookies, candy, prayer square, and Cross which she will carry in her purse forever 💕



# Announcements

**Church Office Hours**  
**8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
(Monday through Friday)

**Please note.....**

Hours may vary with vacations.  
Please call ahead ☺



**Summer Worship Hours**  
**begin Sunday, May 25 @**  
**9:00 a.m.**



## Adult Cinco de Mayo Party

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 p.m.  
Nofzinger's, 6637 Blue Prairie, Whitehouse

Join us for a fun-filled evening! There will be games, a Margarita Contest, a taco bar, and a piñata. Sign up on the kiosk with what you would like to bring. Any questions, contact Susan @ 419-654-9227



**WE NEED YOU** to get your walking shoes on! The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Whitehouse **Cherry Fest** is coming up, and we'd love for you to join the Outreach Committee in walking in the parade on **Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The 1-mile stroll lines up on Oakbrook Drive at noon, and the parade kicks off at 1 p.m. and takes you down Waterville Street to Providence Street and through downtown Whitehouse. Candy for passing out will be provided; just bring your smile! Please sign up on the sheet located at the kiosk; the exact meeting spot on Oakbrook will be determined closer to parade day.



# Announcements



## JOIN US FOR FUN AND LAUGHTER ON MULCH DAY

A layer of mulch will be added to the landscaping around the church. We are looking for volunteers to help with this on **Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m.** Please bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes. Thank you from the property committee.

## Welcome New Members



The Boytim Family

Doug, Heather, Evangeline & Marek were received  
Into membership Easter Sunday, April 20!



Honor **the gift of Mother**  
and our families! Sunday, May 11.

## The Ladies Lunch Bunch!

The Ladies Lunch for May will be on the  
23rd @ 11:30 in Waterville at LaBanda 1101  
Pray Blvd. Please sign up at the kiosk so  
reservations can be made. Questions? call  
Becky King @ 419-349-7319.  
As always, ask a friend!

## Community of Christ Book Club



**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



# Outreach and Social Action Ministry



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 needs 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 started accepting items on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and will continue collecting items 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](mailto:MiGeorge@Genacross.org).





# Prairie Meadow

## Prairie Meadow Update

Thanks to the hardy crew who spent the chilly, blustery evening of April 15<sup>th</sup> marking out the addition to the Prairie Meadow, which will undergo expansion from a quarter to half acre starting this summer. The addition to the Prairie Meadow has been plotted with stakes and flags, and in late May, application of herbicide will begin. It will feature a flowing and appealing front edge.

The start of the Prairie Meadow demonstrated that the seed bank of lawn weeds, e.g., clover and knotgrass, is significant. For the expanded plot, repeated killing and tilling over an 18-month period will be used to prevent cold-germinating and summer germinating weeds with the hopes of better exhausting the weed seed bank prior to native plant seeding in late 2026. It is hoped that seeds for the addition can again be obtained from the Toledo Area Metroparks through the Green Ribbon Initiative Exchange program.

For the current prairie meadow plot, existing tall stems will be cut back soon, so that the new plants are not shaded out by last year's stems. Keep an eye out for things to be popping up soon, as some growth for the upcoming season is already evident!



"Many thanks to Laurie, Dan, Jeff, and Cinda for their help in planning the new layout of the prairie meadow."





# Confirmation Class



Many of our second-year confirmation students got the chance to add their handprints to our new confirmation canvas, which will add their confirmation verses too. In the coming weeks, we'll add this to our hallway as we get ready for our confirmands to affirm their baptism later this year!



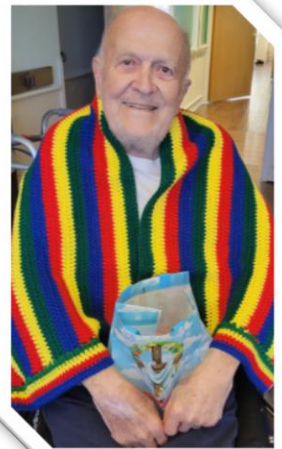
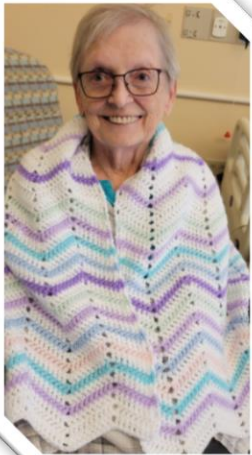


# Loving Our Neighbors



## Visitation Ministry

Filled and delivered 30 Easter baskets to our friends and neighbors





## Swingmania Ticket and Silent Auction - Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated items for our auction and to those who participated in the auction through their monetary donations. In total, the event raised \$2,276.00! All the funds raised will be donated to support the ministries at Genacross! Thank you for your support and generosity!





Community of Christ joined with neighbors from Zion Lutheran in Waterville for an Easter Vigil service that featured our confirmation students in retelling the great stories of our faith and celebrating the news of Jesus' resurrection!





DISCOVERS  
MUSIC  
SERIES

*presented by*  
TIMOTHY'S PERRYSBURG  
FOUNDATION

*An afternoon of Jazz*  
WITH TOLEDO'S OWN

RAMONA COLLINS  
& FRIENDS

SUN. 4 3 P.M.  
MAY

FREE ADMISSION

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
871 EAST BOUNDARY ST.  
PERRYSBURG



An Afternoon of Jazz – Sunday, May 4 @ 3 PM



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Perrysburg  
Free Admission

Come listen to some great jazz music! Our very own **Eric Dickey** will be taking the stage alongside the amazing **Ramona Collins** and friends for a live jazz set you won't want to miss.

It's all happening at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church** in Perrysburg, and yep—it's **free**. Just show up, relax, and enjoy some jazz with friends and neighbors. See you there!



# 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.     |
| Mar                     | \$14,778  | \$12,563  | \$2,215   |
| YTD                     | \$45,799  | \$42,189  | \$3,610   |
| 2025 General Fund       |           |           |           |
|                         | Income    | Expense   | Diff.     |
| Mar                     | \$38,082  | \$34,621  | \$3,462   |
| YTD                     | \$103,490 | \$109,473 | (\$5,983) |

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

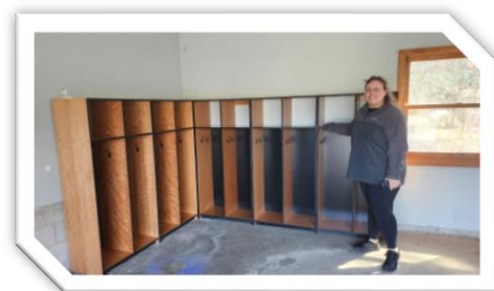


Mike Abraham 05/01  
 Fred Shuman 05/04  
 Wesley Taylor 05/05  
 Ben Malicoate 05/06  
 Dick Rison 05/07  
 Nikki Hartbarger 05/07  
 Cindy Myerholtz 05/10  
 Cynthia Hartbarger 05/10  
 Donald Warner Jr 05/10  
 Timothy Borkowski 05/10  
 Julie Swartz 05/11  
 Sidney Raymond 05/11  
 Andy Pollock 05/12  
 Hailey Reid 05/12  
 Reese Ruhe 05/12

Tylor Pitchford 05/12  
 Zoe Reid 05/12  
 Dick Burdo 05/13  
 Doug Deacon 05/14  
 Richard Ludwig 05/14  
 Peggy Hartbarger 05/15  
 Gregory Myers 05/16  
 Isla Dorton 05/16  
 Lois Wise 05/17  
 Matthew Dick 05/18  
 Kersten Pitchford 05/19  
 Joel Reid 05/20  
 Susan Raymond 05/20

Andrew Yokum 05/21  
 Cindy Nutter 05/21  
 Debbie Grimes 05/21  
 Carol Borkowski 05/24  
 David Prueter 05/24  
 Lisa Malohn 05/24  
 Rick Yokum 05/24  
 Olivia Bucher 05/25  
 Cynthia Matthews 05/26  
 Julie Holliker 05/26  
 Phyllis Sturgeon 05/26  
 Amy Cedargren 05/28  
 Cheryl Fischer 05/28  
 Gordon Rhoades 05/28  
 Kyle Bucher 05/28  
 Tom Jennings 05/31

## CoC littles enjoyed some Easter FUN!



## Toolbox Ministry

Helping our friends at the local  
 Genacross Youth Home

## Church Office Hours

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



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

419-877-0607

[secretary@commofchrist.org](mailto:secretary@commofchrist.org)

[www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org)

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