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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



June 2025

What's Ahead

Summer Worship Time
Sunday Morning
9 a.m.

In-person and
Facebook Live

Sunday Morning
Bible Study
10:15 a.m.

Pastor's Bible
Study

Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Spiritual Practices
Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

Visitation ministry
June 2, 10:30 a.m.

AW Area Youth
Group
June 2, 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship
June 3, 6:00 p.m.

Social Action
June 4, 10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music
June 5, 10:00 a.m.

Christian
Education
June 9, 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting
June 10, 7:00 p.m.

Concert
June 24, 6:00 p.m.

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



Pastor's Letter, June 2025 - The Edge of Discipleship

Maybe you've heard the old saying that being in worship on Sunday morning isn't like watching your favorite football team play a game while you're seated in the stands or at home—it's like being in the huddle on the field so you'll know where to go and what to do when the ball is snapped. In other words, we aren't here to be spectators who watch from the bleachers or an audience taking in a performance on stage; we are on the team, and we're the ones running with the ball. And that also means that Sunday mornings aren't the only way—or even the main way—that we live out our lives of faith, not any more than the huddle is the point of a football game.

No, just like the huddle of the players is the chance they all get to be directed for where to go and how to move in the next play on the field, we gather in worship on Sundays to be re-centered, re-oriented, and re-commissioned for living and serving, and witnessing in the week ahead. It's the huddle that reminds us who and Whose we are, so that in our Monday through Saturday lives, we can be reflections of the way of Jesus in our words, actions, and choices.

This summer, our focus in this year of *Living on the Edge: Christianity Beyond Our Comfort Zones* is going to be on just that: how we move from seeing ourselves as passive observers or an audience for a performance to understanding ourselves as *disciples* of Jesus who carry out his commissioning and embody his way of life and love for the world. You'll see it happening starting on June 1, as five of our young people say "Yes!" back to the God who first said "YES!" to them at their baptism, when they are confirmed in the faith. And as you hear each of them respond to the questions about continuing on in their lives of faith, serving all people, and working for justice and peace in the world, by saying, "I will, and I ask God to help and guide me," I would invite you to hear those questions being addressed to you, too. Will you and I also continue in our lives of faith, not merely watching a performance or standing at a distance, but living out our faith as a part of our daily lives? That's where Jesus is leading us.

You'll feel the same pull to discipleship when you see the t-shirts that Outreach Committee is having made (see the article in this issue), which will be both a way of sharing our faith with our clothing and supporting the good work of Neighborhood Bridges, which connects people with needs to people with resources in our community. The shirts say, "Be the evidence of God's love," and in a sense, that's what the whole Christian life is about. We don't do good in the world in order to try and impress God or win favor from our neighbors, but rather our lives can be the evidence for other people to see that God does love them, and that the Good News of Jesus is real. Finding ways to do that—to *be the evidence of God's love* in the world—that's what it means to be disciples. That's what it means to get out of the bleachers and onto the field.

From Pastor Steve, continued

And when we see our whole lives as disciples, then we'll understand the whole point of Sunday mornings: it's never been about being entertained or amused. It's always been about being re-centered in the Story of God, re-grounded in the promises of God, and renewed at the Table of God, so that we can live as the feet and hands of Jesus on the playing field of our everyday lives. Join us this June to be a part of the action... on the edge of discipleship.

Christ's Peace,
Pastor Steve

From Vicar Natalie Downs

One Sunday morning at my previous church in Ann Arbor, the senior pastor, Jim, was late to worship. It was really unlike him not to be around right before worship, or to walk in at the last minute. No one knew where he was as the time was coming close to worship. Right before worship started, he rushed in with naan bread for communion in his hand. He shared during his sermon that he realized that we were low on naan bread and ran down to Kroger down the road to pick up extra. While he was out, rushing quickly to get back to church, a woman stopped him. Seeing his collar, she asked him if he would keep her son in his prayers. And he responded by saying yes, but then told her, "Why don't we pray now?" And thankful for his presence and idea, she accepted. Together, in the middle of the Kroger, they prayed for her son. I remember him sharing that in the midst of the business, to get back to church, he was stopped because the Spirit had other plans for him that day. Outside of this example, I have also witnessed other people in my life who have responded to the unexpected when the need arises, whether it is through words of affirmation, presence, or prayer in my own life or others. This Pentecost, we will hear about the Holy Spirit coming to the apostles and how it is a gift given to us in our own lives. And even though we cannot see with our human eye the Spirit, we can pay attention to the movement of the Spirit through the people and situations we encounter daily. I notice for myself the tug and nudge from the Spirit to respond in words and deeds with people that I meet along this holy journey. And those responses to those promptings included praying for people after hearing the weight they are carrying on their hearts. It is giving my lunch to the man at the train station who was in need of food. It is speaking up when I feel that people have been hurt, or groups need my voice of support. It is showing up to be there with someone, even if I don't exactly know what to say or do but trusting that the Spirit will guide me. And it is surprising to me at times, because in the midst of my to-do lists and going from point A to point B, the Spirit does poke me to stop, pay attention, and respond. And responding to the needs of others is what living out in Christ's love is all about. And the good news is that you, child of God, are given the gift of the Spirit in your own life and are equipped for such work in the world, through your own unique perspectives and gifts. There is an African American Spiritual called "I'm Goin' a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing," and in it, it states,

"I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing...
I'm goin' a shout when the Spirit says shout...
I'm goin' a preach when the Spirit says preach...
I'm goin' a pray when the Spirit says pray...
And obey the Spirit of the Lord."



Being rooted in God's love and living in love, we are called to listen and pay attention to the needs of our neighbor, and trust that even if we are not sure what exactly to do, God will show up through the power of the Spirit and lead us on the way.

growing in god's work

Crazy Faith Talk Asks End-Times Questions

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.

This summer, these colleagues in ministry will be exploring how Lutheran Christians talk and think about *eschatology*, which is just the fancy theological term for “end times” or “last things.” Every decade or so, there seems to be a new wave of fervor with people predicting (wrongly) that they know when Jesus will come again or looking to explain the day’s headlines in light of their interpretation of the Book of Revelation. And when we hear voices like those, it can be very confusing to know what the Scriptures *actually* say, and why Lutheran Christians tend not to get carried away with convoluted timelines of end-times events. So, in this series, we’ll explore where some of these ideas come from, what the Bible actually does—and doesn’t—say about last things, and how we live as people of hope in Christ’s coming in glory. We’ll also explore where the notion of the “rapture” came from, since it’s not actually in the Bible, and we’ll trace the roots of this notion since it was invented in the 1800s. If that sounds like a conversation you would likely be a part of, listen in and check out this series with our weekly posts on our church Facebook page or Twitter/X (@BeingGraced), by searching for “Crazy Faith Talk” on Spotify, or your smart speaker!



Class of 2025



Community of Christ Recognizes Graduates in the Class of 2025

On May 25 and June 1, we have taken time at the end of worship to mark a very special milestone for a number of our young adults—we are honoring graduates in the Class of 2025. Continuing the tradition we started last year, members of the congregation have highlighted and underlined special verses to offer encouragement and wisdom for the next chapters of their lives beyond high school. We are so thankful to our graduates and their families for this chance to honor their accomplishments, cheer them on, and ask God’s blessing on their journeys!



growing in god's work

Adult Forum June 1— An Introduction to Spiritual Practices



As we prepare for our summer-long series, “In the Presence of God,” introducing us to Spiritual Practices for all ages, Vicar Natalie and Laurie Mauro will be presenting an overview of several of the practices we’ll explore in depth in our Thursday evening gatherings from June through August. Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 9:00 a.m. service for a chance to learn more and to find out which of the twelve practices might connect best for your own spirituality, faith, and discipleship, and find out what this is all about!



Good Trouble: A Study in Amos (Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.)

In a time when people confused financial success with divine favor and focused on ritual rather than righteousness, God raised up a bold truth-teller and poet named Amos. And like all of the authentic prophets of ancient Israel, he was able to both comfort the afflicted... and to afflict the comfortable. Whether he was calling out the Respectable Religious Leaders of his day or pointing out how the most vulnerable of his society were being taken advantage of, Amos was willing to risk his reputation and his comfort in order to wake people up. He regularly got himself into what the late John Lewis used to call “good trouble.” And his witness is an important one for us today, as people who promise every time, we affirm our baptism that we will “strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” So, join us for an in-depth study of this prophet on Thursdays this summer as our next Thursday afternoon Bible study at 1:00 p.m., co-led by Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie. We’ll be starting up with this series on June 5, in the council room, and we’ll be offering weekly video summaries as well to catch up if you can’t join us in person around the table. We hope you’ll be a part of this summer-long series here at Community of Christ studying Amos!

Big Things Coming up This June in Worship!

Coming up for the month of June, we’ve got several really special celebrations happening in worship, and we want you to join us for all of them at our 9:00 a.m. service!

June 1—Confirmation

Five of our young people have completed our two-year confirmation program (with a year focused on the Bible and a year in the Small Catechism) and will be confirmed on June 1. This milestone of faith is a time of *affirming their baptism*—to say “yes” back to the God who has already said “Yes!” to them first, and to choose to continue growing in their faith, discipleship, and service. Join us as Mark Bond, Andrew Carman, Ava Davis, James Fifer, and Trevor Nye are confirmed!

June 8—Pentecost and New Members

We tell the story of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (sometimes also called the “birthday of the church”) at Pentecost, and this year, we’ll also welcome new members into the congregation!

“Into Your Hands”—An Encore Workshop on Christian Funerals and End-of-Life Questions

In early May, Visitation Ministry hosted a Saturday morning workshop co-led by Vicar Natalie and Pastor Steve on Christian funerals and questions that often arise in end-of-life situations. We had a very positive response to that event, and a number of people who were not able to attend because of timing asked if it could be shared again. So, this summer, we invite you to join us for an encore presentation of *Into Your Hands*, on the evening of **Tuesday, July 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**, covering the same content as the workshop we offered back in May. Sign up at the kiosk to join us 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 in June to find out more. Then, coming up in the fall, look for a new workshop that will look at another set of issues related to death and dying, focusing on documents like living wills, healthcare power of attorney, and estate planning, in case those topics are of interest to you, too. Visitation Ministry is grateful for the chance to get to present good information and workshops on topics that you find valuable, so please let us know if you have ideas for future topics that you would like covered in an educational format like this—see Cheryl Fischer or Cinda Pontsler.

Christian Group From Bethlehem (In the Holy Land!) Coming to Community of Christ

On June 22, 2025, during worship, we will be hosting a presenter from *Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative*, a group based out of Bethlehem in the Holy Land, who will be making visits at several Lutheran congregations around Northwestern Ohio over the summer. In a Temple Talk during worship, we'll have a chance to hear about the present-day experience of Christians whose families have lived in the Holy Land for generations. After the 9:00 a.m. service, we will have a chance to peruse a display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem, available for purchase in the Gathering Space. HLCSC representative Dr. George Ghanem tells us, “These carvings include olive wood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels, and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter, and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.”

Dr. Ghanem also reports that “More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depends upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades, those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to recurring bouts of war, the 12-yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and right now the catastrophic ongoing war in Gaza for the past nineteen months. Because of all of these factors, tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land, which has made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland without their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

So, we invite you to learn more on June 22 and to consider helping to support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem, where Christ was born, by purchasing their carvings, from which all proceeds will go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.

Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation.



Worship Volunteer Schedule

June 2025



Week	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	Jun 29
Acolyte/Crucifer	J Perkins / L Mauro	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Neil Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Sarah Rockwell
Communion Prep/Clean	Jill Kohntopp	Kari Swagler	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West	Rob Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Joseph Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Ron Atkins	Volunteer Needed	Jossef Perkins
Worship Asst	Laurie Mauro	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Dean Nofzinger	Joe Perkins
Verger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 05/22/2025. 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.

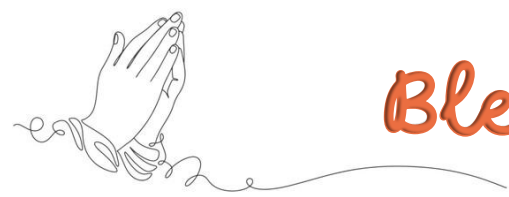
Bulletin Assistants: Arrive 15 minutes before service to pass out bulletins. Count the number of people in attendance (including worship volunteers and all in the nursery if applicable) and mark this number on the chart inside the kiosk.

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:

GREG AUBELL, 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, WARREN KINGSLEY, CAROL MASON, SANDY MCPHERSON, AMY MEAGHER, AUSTIN MINNI, FRANK O'KONSKI, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, STACI, NATALIE RILLING, DICK RISON, IRIS ROCKWELL, PHYLLIS STURGEON, LOIS WISE
MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE



Prayers of the Church

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 the 9:00 a.m. service. 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 family of Eric Lewis, brother-in-law to Linda and Rick Metcalf, and the family of Warren Kingsley, brother to Irene Rang, 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



Next Meeting Date
June 2 @ 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting Date
June 3 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date
June 4 @ 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date
June 5 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
June 9 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
June 10 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
June 24 @ 6:00 p.m.



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 5th and ending August 28th** (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 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.

Kids Reading Club



Kids Summer Reading Program

This summer, Community of Christ will be offering a summer reading program for kids. All summer, the Gathering space will house a bookshelf with ten different faith-based picture books for kids to read throughout the summer. Kids are encouraged to pick up a reading checklist, which lists all of the books to read. They can check out up to two books per week by signing out the books on the cards found inside each book and placing them in the "check-out" slot at the bottom of the bookcase. When they are finished reading and return the books, they can take a sticker from the bookshelf and add it to their reading checklist to keep track of what they have read. Once they have read all the books, they can see Vicar Natalie for a prize!



The books we are reading include:

- Found: Psalm 23
- Where God Lives
- The Apostles' Creed: For All God's Children
- Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus
- Who is My Neighbor?
- Maybe God is Like That Too
- The Marvelous Mustard Seed
- God's Holy Darkness
- God Created
- What is the Bible?



Summer Story Time
Tuesdays 10:00-10:30 a.m.
June 10th-August 12th
Location: Library

Summer Story Time

Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie will be offering a summer story time in the library for our elementary age students. We will be featuring books from our summer reading list and some additional choices. Come read, sing, and pray with us!

Announcements



Happy Birthday!

Have a Blessed Day!!

I'm Sending YOU a SMILE!!!



Will you help the Visitation Ministry brighten the day of residents of Blue Creek Nursing Center this summer? Many of these residents receive little mail, so we thought this would be a great way to lift up their day! 😊 🦋 💕

It's easy! Simply choose a cheerful card, write a sentence or two of a greeting, sign it from "A friend from Community of Christ", then place it in the appropriate bag on the kiosk, Birthday or Thinking of You.



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

Calling All Youth (Grades 5-12) and All Drivers of Dirty Cars!

Our community-wide Anthony Wayne Area Youth group is planning on hosting a car wash here to raise money for Neighborhood Bridges (which connects needs in the community with resources to meet them). For our youth, we would LOVE you to join us in a fun way to serve our community, and for the congregation, we would LOVE you to come get your car washed and support a good cause! **Join us Saturday, June 7, 9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.** at Community of Christ for fun with friends while raising funds for a great cause right here in our own community! For our participating youth, a pizza lunch will be provided after the car wash. Sign up to help lend a hand at our car wash at this QR code or link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAEA-A2AA0F8C34-56689208-awyouth>





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 Schedule****

****Sunday Morning****

****9:00 AM****

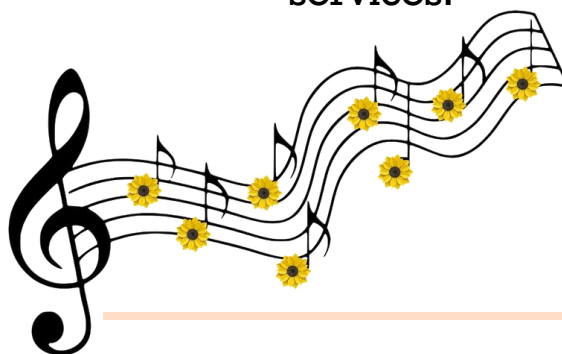
Join us in person or watch live on
Facebook.

HYMN SING

Hymn Sing Sundays!

Come prepared to shout out your
FAVORITE HYMNS as the
congregation gets to choose on
the first Sunday of the month!

Join us on Sunday, June 1, July 6,
and August 3 at our 9:00 a.m.
services!



WE NEED YOU to get your walking shoes
on! The 42nd 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 14th**.

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



In Case You Missed It: Three Recent Original Songs in Eastertide

This Eastertide, we have been truly blessed to get to celebrate the baptisms of three young saints in our midst in worship! Back on Easter Sunday, we celebrated the baptism of Marek Boytim, and the following Sunday, Christopher Nowak. Then on May 15, LaKai Stout was baptized as well. As you might know, Pastor Steve has the practice of writing songs as part of the sermon when someone is baptized in worship, which then becomes a unique memory and memento for those who are baptized to remember the occasion. And when those songs are shared, we also share digital audio recordings of them, in case you missed the chance to be with us in person for each of those special days. You can find those songs on Bandcamp.com (we also have links for each on our church Facebook page), where you can listen for free, or choose to download each or all of the songs, in which case, we will direct all proceeds to the important work of Lutheran World Relief as they seek to help people rebuild after disasters, resettle in times of displacement, or revitalize their communities out of the grip of poverty and disease. Check out these links to give these three recent songs a listen:

“Where It Starts” (Song from April 20): <https://mercymovesus.bandcamp.com/track/where-it-starts>

“Dare to Trust” (Song from April 27): <https://mercymovesus.bandcamp.com/track/dare-to-trust>

“Love Is Our Homeland” (Song from May 18): <https://mercymovesus.bandcamp.com/track/love-is-our-homeland-a-song-for-lakai>

2025 Community of Christ Days and Olivet at Urban Wholistics Farms

Spend a morning at the farm with us! There are plenty of ways to help: support Sonia with the children's gardening program, assist at the kids' farm stand, or pitch in with general farm maintenance. Bring your kids or grandkids—there's something for everyone.

We'll be visiting on these Saturdays from 9:00–11:00 AM:

- May 31, • June 28, • July 26

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 am if you'd like to caravan. If you'd like to drive from your home, the address is:

Urban Wholistics,
Tatum Park by SONIA Organics
1209 City Park
Toledo, OH 43604

We will be hanging a sign-up sheet for each of these dates.

Any questions? Call Sarah Rockwell – 419-261-2843



Prairie Meadow

If you have a moment, check out the Columbine—it's in full bloom right now in the Prairie Meadow!





Announcements



Outreach Invites You to "Be The Evidence of God's Love" with New Apparel



The folks at the Outreach Committee invite you to be faithful—and fashionable!—while we also raise money for a neighborhood cause this summer. Beginning in June, the Outreach Committee invites you to order one of these new t-shirts with an original design that says, "Be the evidence of God's love" on the front, and has our Community of Christ logo on the sleeve! We'll be taking orders in June and July and hope to have shirts available in August and definitely in time for Blue Jean Sunday at summer's end! These will be a great way to share your faith, encourage someone to show God's love, and to help out a good cause, because we'll take all the profits and send them to Neighborhood Bridges of Anthony Wayne Area for their weekend backpack food program for school students. Shirts will be \$15.00, and you'll be able to order in person on Sunday mornings by cash or check, or to use an electronic sign-up on Sign-Up Genius, all starting this June!



June 15—Gifts in Honor of Father's Day

As we did with gifts for the women of the congregation on Mother's Day, we will have special thank-you gifts for the men of the congregation as we give thanks to God for dads and stepdads, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and the other men God places in our lives.



The Ladies Lunch Bunch!

The June Ladies Lunch is scheduled for
June 27th at 11:30 a.m.

This month, we will gather at
'The Garden at Brandywine,'
located at 6904 Salisbury Rd,
Maumee, OH 43537.

Please remember to sign up
at the kiosk for reservations.

If you have any questions, feel free to
call Becky King at 419-349-7319. Don't
forget to bring a friend!

Community of Christ Book Club

June 17 - Remarkably Bright Creatures by
Shelley Van Pelt

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



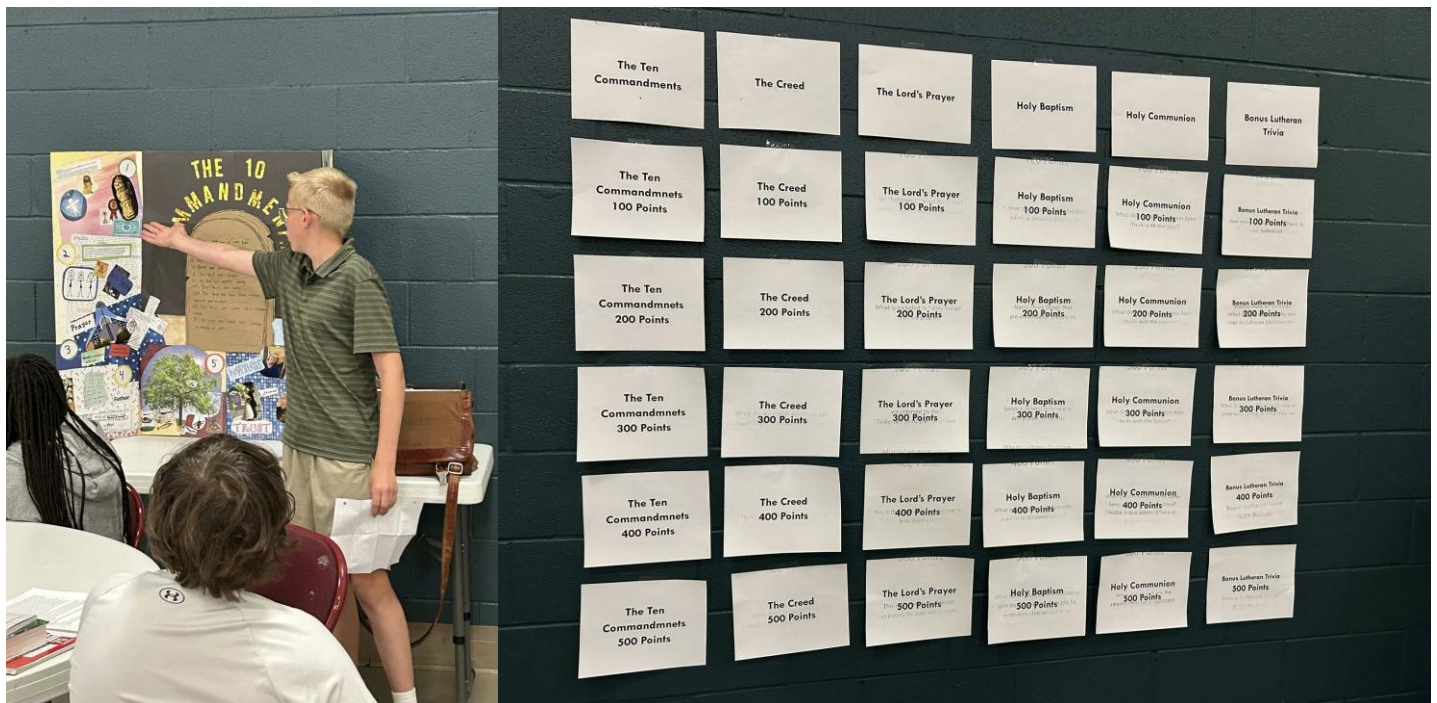


Confirmation



At our final confirmation class session for the school year, we had the last of our projects to share, a final exam (in the format of a game of Jeopardy!), and a chance to pray together one last time before some are confirmed and some come back for their second year in the fall!

Great year, everyone!



Fun and Laughter on "Mulch Day"

The property committee hosted "mulch" day on May 10th. Thank you to the 11 volunteers who came out to add a fresh layer of mulch to the landscaping!





Loving Our Neighbors



A big thank you to the "Toolbox" crew for their help in removing pews at Salem Lutheran! Your time and effort are truly appreciated as they continue to improve their space for "breakfast church" this year.



*Just a small token of gratitude
to say a big*

THANK YOU

FOR ALL THAT YOU DO
FOR OUR KIDS AND COMMUNITY!
ENJOY THESE BREAKFAST TREATS,
AND KNOW YOU ARE APPRECIATED!
*from your friends at
Community of Christ!*

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
6517 FINZEL ROAD, WHITEHOUSE

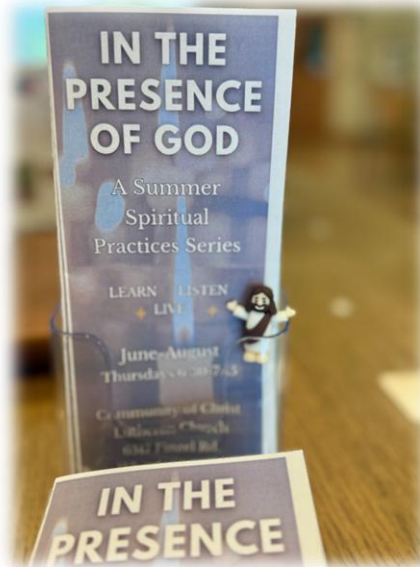
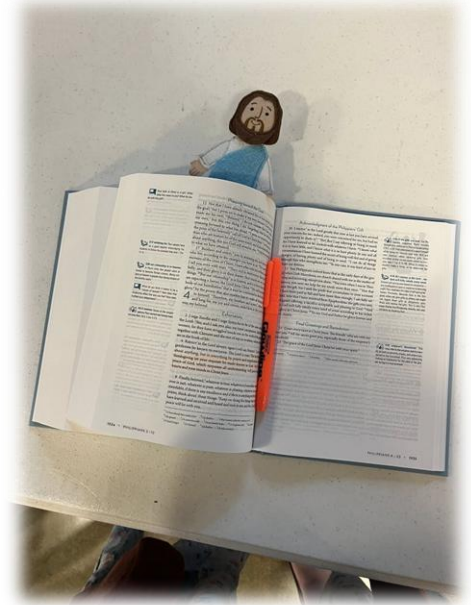


Our Outreach Ministry shared a special treat each quarter this past year with the AW teachers and staff as an appreciation of all they do! Here is a special thank you from not only a teacher but one of our members 💖

I'm not sure who to say thank you to for the nice Panera bagel/cookie treat that the high school received from Community of Christ yesterday. It was a really nice way to start the day! If you could pass on a thank you to all who were involved,



Life with God is not a game of hide and seek, but rather a journey of surprise and wonder.



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.  **Tithe.ly**

2025 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Apr	\$14,167	\$12,563	\$1,604
YTD	\$59,966	\$54,752	\$5,214
2025 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Apr	\$45,054	\$38,459	\$6,596
YTD	\$148,545	\$147,932	\$612

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



Bill Happel Jr	06/01	Linda Metcalf	06/15
Carson Ruhe	06/01	Stephen Archer	06/15
Fred Ortner	06/01	Holli Burkard	06/16
Reid Moser	06/01	Brenda Carpenter	06/17
Joan Schwartz	06/03	Donna Wagner	06/17
Ellen Bucher	06/05	Bonnie Smigelski	06/18
Timothy Roth	06/05	Matt Davis	06/18
Kevin Steinman	06/06	Jordan Brosten	06/19
Wendy Gehring	06/06	Doug Boytim	06/22
Valerie Hartbarger	06/08	Jake Reid	06/23
John Spilker	06/09	Lisa Alleman	06/23
Tim Schmidt	06/09	Donna Longnecker	06/26
Carol Wiemken	06/10	Richard Pratt	06/26
Jana Dorton	06/12	Valery Taylor	06/29
Natalie Rilling	06/12	Joshua Kohntopp	06/30
Frederick Doering	06/14		

We were grateful to have been able to host the annual Synod Retirees Luncheon on May 14, with fantastic-looking food from our friends down the road at The Whitehouse Inn!



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

Please note.....

Hours may vary with vacations.
Please call ahead ☺

419-877-0607

secretary@commofchrist.org

www.commofchrist.org

6517 Finzel Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church