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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



July 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.

Social Action
July 10, 10:00 a.m.

Visitation Ministry
August 4, 10:30 a.m.

Outreach
August 5, 7:00 p.m.

Worship & Music
August 7, 10:00 a.m.

Stewardship
August 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Christian
Education**
August 11, 6:30 p.m.

Concert
August 12, 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
August 12, 7:00 p.m.

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

**Church Office
Closed**
Friday, July 4th



July 2025—Going Where Jesus Goes

Jesus isn't looking for fans to watch from the bleachers or clicks from "like" buttons on social media. He is seeking disciples. Or, as the 19th-century theologian and philosopher Søren Kierkegaard put it so powerfully, Jesus "*never asks for admirers.... No, he calls disciples. It is not adherents of a teaching, but followers of a life Christ is looking for.*" That's an important difference, honestly—in fact, it will change our lives.

You can admire someone in some area, but not have it make a bit of difference in what you do with your own life. You can *admire* a basketball player's skill from behind the three-point line without it leading you to rearrange your life or priorities. You can *admire* a movie star for their glamorous appearance on the red carpet but not want to copy their complicated celebrity romances or buy the products they sell in ads. But to be a follower of Jesus, a disciple, makes a claim on our lives. We aren't just here to learn facts *about* Jesus or memorize propositions from his sermons and teachings. We are here to walk in his footsteps—to go *where* Jesus goes... to the *people* Jesus goes to... in order to *do* the kinds of things that Jesus does. To see ourselves as disciples will change us, not so that we stop being who we are, but rather so that in Christ we become more fully who we are meant to be all along.

When we see our lives of faith as a journey of *discipleship* that way, then it makes perfect sense that we should expect Jesus to lead us out of our comfort zones and into experiences, neighborhoods, and situations that are new to us. Because Jesus cared—and cares—for outsiders, foreigners, and those most struggling to get by, we shouldn't be surprised that the living Jesus just might lead us to continue to collect items for migrant workers in partnership with Bridges of Hope and Project LIFT in Fremont with other congregations who are learning to *do what Jesus does*. Because Jesus always surrounded himself with the folks on the margins, the ones overlooked and cast out, and the people written off as "less-than," we shouldn't be surprised when Jesus leads us beyond our social circles and friend groups to meet new faces or help in neighborhoods that feel overlooked or are treated as less-than sometimes. So, we might find ourselves in the city of Toledo, walking side by side with other people of faith to say, "God's love is for you!" to everybody who crosses our path, harvesting vegetables and weeding garden beds at Urban Wholistics so that a neighborhood can be revitalized, or helping with projects and new ministries on the North End through our partners at Salem Lutheran. And because Jesus leads his followers into a newer and deeper relationship with God, it shouldn't surprise us if Jesus prompts you to explore a new spiritual practice at one of our Thursday evening sessions, to make the space and time for the Spirit to move in our hearts in a way we didn't realize we had been aching for. Discipleship is like that—it means being ready for Jesus to find us where we are, but not to leave us where we are, because he is shaping us to be like him, among the people he seeks out, and in places we have never gone before.

From Pastor Steve Continued....

This July, come along for that journey, and be ready for Jesus to lead us somewhere new, in these days ahead. I'll be along for the walk, too, and together we'll see what the next adventure is on this *life on the edge*.

Christ's Peace,
Pastor Steve

From Vicar Natalie Downs

Basta!

Luke 9:51-56

51 When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way, they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; 53 but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 Then they went on to another village.

Being a polyglot from my classical music days, I have picked up certain words that just come out when I need to express certain emotions. And the Italian word, "basta," has been one such word I say out loud with expression in tone and body when I have reached my limit. In Italiano, basta can have either a positive or negative translation, depending on the context. Plainly, it means "enough." It's putting an end to something. So, for example, in a positive way, you can use the phrase "basta, così" if someone is pouring you a drink and you want to say "that's enough." Or, if you are really angry, with a strong vocal inflection, it can mean "Stop it!" when you simply have had enough and want someone or something to stop.

I think of Jesus in this moment in Luke's gospel having a *basta* moment - the strongly worded kind, to be clear (no meal scene at this part of Luke!). And for good reasons. The disciples crossed a line asking Jesus to abuse his power to destroy their adversaries. And Jesus, at these demands from James and John, turned to them and rebuked them for speaking in such a way. But what is the big deal between Jews and Samaritans? And why would the Samaritans be mad that Jesus' face was turned toward Jerusalem? The truth is, the relationship between the Jews and Samaritans has a long history at this point of tension and division. Both Jews and Samaritans followed the law from the Torah - the early books handed down by Moses to the people. So, they believe in God and God's law, but one of the differences was their squabble over the holy place where God resides. For example, Jews, like Jesus and the disciples, thought of Jerusalem as the holy place where God resides. So, on holy festivals, they would ascend to Jerusalem to celebrate. The Samaritans, however, believed that Mount Gerizim was the holy place of God, the place where Abraham made an altar for God, and the place where Jacob had his vision of angels ascended and descended from heaven to earth on a ladder. This is just one of many differences in their history that caused theological tension and general animosity built up over the years. But Jesus wasn't there to play games or heighten the division with the Samaritans. Jesus' ministry was one that built bridges. Jesus' enough was not letting years and years of squabble deter the kingdom of God.

From Vicar Natalie Downs

Jesus may have had *basta* feelings with James and John's anger towards the Samaritans, but Jesus didn't stop there when referring to the Samaritans, and he didn't stop leading his disciples. To get the bigger picture of this story, you need to continue to Luke 10, where you will read the parable of the good Samaritan. Before the parable, an important question is asked by a lawmaker: Who is my neighbor? To answer this, Jesus speaks of the Samaritan who saved the beaten Jerico man lying in a ditch. The priest and Levite (both Jewish) passed by the man. The Samaritan stopped and took care of him. I often wonder as the disciples James and John heard this, did this offer them a different perspective to the ones they judged? Did it change their hearts, or cause them to ponder what they were doing?

The law of God is summed up in two commands, which Jesus shares before the telling of this parable. To love God and neighbor. Still today, there are many tensions and schisms in our own communities of faith, outside of the church. But also, as we know today, the political sphere, and we can get swept up easily in the tension. And in that, we can lose sight of the call to love, but also the message of the parable and what was needed from James and John entering into combative territory – mercy. Jesus' ministry is one of compassion and love. And as disciples, we are called to such a life as well. It is not compassion, though, just for those in our inner circle or who think like us. It is also as Jesus shows us - crossing boundaries to the other who is different from us. This type of discipleship is challenging, but it is a call that is part of loving our neighbor. And so today, instead of being swept up in the conflicts and pushing away from the difference, we are invited by Jesus to lean in. I have often heard people saying that they are weary by this world and the divisiveness in communities and our country and wonder what the future holds for such divided times. And that is understandable. We have certain things we are passionate about, strong opinions. How do we live with others different from us? Maybe our own *basta* moment is saying, "I'm done following the world's way of dealing with difference, which tells me to push farther away, beat down with my words, keep my like-minded people close to me, and push out those who don't think like me." Maybe instead, it is saying, "I will walk Jesus' way - walking in compassion, showing up with good courage to engage in difficult dialogue, listen to understand rather than defend." We may not agree on everything with those we meet or converse with, but we can still show up in love as best we can through the work of the spirit in us. We can choose to engage and collaborate despite our differences. Jesus showed us this way of love and mercy, and we have confidence in the cross which is enough for me, you, and all of us to be disciples in this world that is full of complexities and differences. Let's not say *basta/enough* to engage with the other side. Instead, may our *basta/enough* regarding the present-day tensions turn us to follow Jesus and cross into our own present-day Samaritans to work in ways that form bridges and open paths of mercy and love and the possibility of reconciliation, healing, and friendship.



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

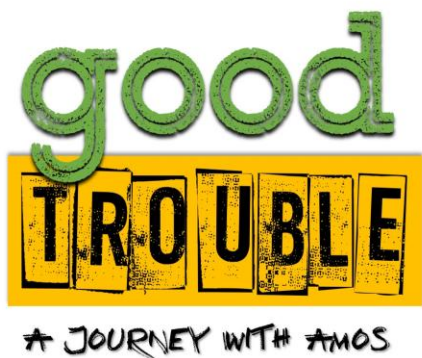
Crazy Faith Talk Goes “Back to the Future”

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.

Continuing this July, these colleagues in ministry are in a series we are calling, “Back to the Future: A Hopeful Look at Last Things.” In it, we are 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 like to 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 on your smart speaker!

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. Even if you have missed some of our earlier sessions back in June, you can jump right in and explore this bold and powerful voice from the Bible! As with other Bible study series we do here, we are 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!



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Hard Sayings Of Jesus—Summer Sunday Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings after worship for the summer edition of our Adult Sunday School class. We are gathering in the council room (also the Thursday afternoon Bible study room) at about 10:15 a.m. for a new series that will take a look at some of the difficult sayings and actions of Jesus to explore what they mean (or what they don't mean) and to unpack some otherwise complicated and challenging teachings of Jesus. What did Jesus mean when he said, "It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom?" What about when Jesus said, "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword?" Why did Jesus overturn the moneychangers in the Temple? And what could be going on when Jesus told his disciples to leave behind parents, family, and children for the sake of following him? We'll be looking at a different passage and a different "hard saying" each week, so come when you can, and join the conversation, each Sunday this summer, here at Community of Christ!

Spiritual Practices Thursdays



Imaginative Prayer 6/5/2025



Prayer Labyrinth 6/12/2025



Visio Divina 06/19/2025



Centering Prayer 06/26/2025

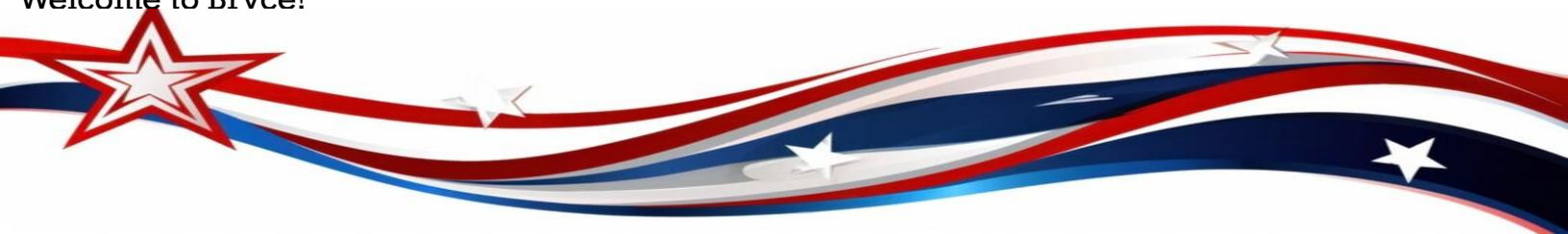
“Into Your Hands”—An Encore Workshop on Christian Funerals and End-of-Life Questions

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 July 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.



New Children, Youth and Family Ministry Facilitator To Begin This July!

After many months of work seeking, interviewing, and deliberating over candidates, our joint task group with neighboring congregation Providence Lutheran in Holland is happy to report we have a candidate who has been hired for our new shared Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Facilitator position! We are happy to welcome Bryce Hinegardner to both Community of Christ and Providence for this new joint position! Bryce's start date will be July 14, and in that first week, he'll be getting acclimated at both congregations, with a plan that eventually he'll have twenty hours a week at each location and a regularly rotating presence on Sunday mornings in worship between Community of Christ and Providence. We'll have a chance later this August for a meet and greet with Bryce on a Sunday morning after worship, and you can look for an introduction from Bryce himself in our August newsletter as well. But in the meantime, we wanted to share the good news that our task group has found a winsome, passionate, energetic, and diligent person to step into this new ministry coordinating role for the ministries of our children, youth, and families here at Community of Christ! Welcome to Bryce!



Worship Volunteer Schedule



July 2025



Week	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Acolyte/Crucifer	Joe Perkins / Teresa Loga	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed	Teresa Loga
Bulletin	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed	Dean Nofzinger
Camera	Carol Wimken	Kevin Swagker	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell
Communion Prep/Clean	Bea Lodwig	Kari Swagler	Bea Ludwig	Becky King
Greeter East	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Volunteer Needed	Becky King	Cheryl Fischer	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst	Dean Nofzinger	Laurie Mauro	Don Schroeder	Teresa Loga
Verger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 06/19/2025. 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.

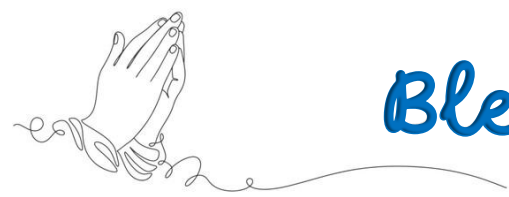
Bulletin Assistants: Arrive 15 minutes before service to pass out bulletins. Count the number of people in attendance (including worship volunteers and all in the nursery if applicable) and mark this number on the chart inside the kiosk.

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, SHIRLEY COFER, VIRGINIA DILLON, JIM & SUE ENK, LARRY GEER, PAULA GRUHLER, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, TOM JENNINGS, SAM KENNEY, TRISTAN KIMMEY, CAROL MASON, SANDY MCPHERSON, AMY MEAGHER, FRANK O'KONSKI, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, STACI, NATALIE RILLING, DICK RISON, 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 hold in our prayers the families of Iris Rockwell, mother of Dave Rockwell, and Susanne Donall, beloved wife of Ron, mother of Andrew and Mark, daughter of Vera Reid, and sister to Kirk and Joel Reid. May the Lord surround them with peace and comfort in the days ahead.



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 contact Irene Rang at 269-832-7714.

CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



Next Meeting Date
July 10 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 4 @ 10:30 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 5 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 7 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 7 @ 6:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 11 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 12 @ 6:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 12 @ 7:00 p.m.



As part of Vicar Natalie's internship project, we have been 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 has been meeting on **Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Please continue to join us from now until Thursday, **August 28th** (no class July 3rd). Each week we have a pastor from the community 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. 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

Community of Christ is 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.
Now through August 12th
Location: Library

Summer Story Time

Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie invite the elementary age students to a summer story time in the church library. We are featuring books from the summer reading list and some additional choices. Come read, sing, and pray with us!

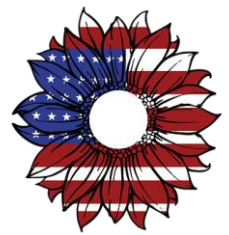
Announcements



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 July 8 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!



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 a.m.

- July 26

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. 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

Please sign up at the kiosk.

Any questions?

Call Sarah Rockwell – 419-261-2843



Announcements

Looking for a Flexible Bible Study Option?

If you've wanted to join a Bible study but your schedule hasn't allowed it—or you missed one of our past studies—we have a great solution! The church library now offers **over 21 Bible studies on DVD** for you to borrow and complete at your own pace.

To check one out, simply use the sign-out card attached to the DVD, place it in the pocket on the side of the bookcase, and return the DVD and card when you're finished.

Please note: You'll need to order your study book for each series.

Topics include *Exodus, Genesis, Hebrews, James*, and many more!

Questions? Contact Becky King at **419-349-7319**.

SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH!

Let's lace up those walking shoes to help love, unity, and inclusion shine brightly in our community. Community of Christ has been asked to join a multi-faith initiative and walk in support in the Toledo Pride parade on Saturday, August 16th. Last year, more than 300 people from over 30 different local faith communities joined together, highlighting a message that we all Love Out Loud and we are Better Together. Think of this as a chance to say by our presence and our walking feet, "God's love is for you!" to people who might just be aching to hear that they are beloved. Even if that's all our presence can do for someone else, that might just be the starting point for the Spirit to move in amazing and gracious ways. Please consider joining the Outreach Committee and walking to promote inclusion for all in the world that God loves. A sign-up sheet for the walk and information on how to order this year's T-shirt will be located on the kiosk and in Sign-Up Genius on the church's website.



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, July 6, and August 3 at our 9:00 a.m. services!



Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Join us for fellowship and baseball! Cheer on our Toledo Mudhens as they take on the Memphis Redbirds.

- Sunday, July 20th at 4:05 p.m.
- Tickets are \$11 each - **cash only**
- Sign up by July 6th on the sign-up sheet on the kiosk! Pay Michelle or Chad.

For questions, call or text Chad Ackerman at 419-350-4879. Hope to see you there!



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. These new t-shirts have an original design that says, "Be the evidence of God's love" on the front, and have our Community of Christ logo on the sleeve! **Orders will be taken through July** with the hope of having shirts available in August, but 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 are \$15.00. You can order in person on Sunday mornings by cash or check or use an electronic sign-up on Sign-Up Genius!



The Ladies' Lunch will be Friday, July 25th, at 11:30 a.m. We will be going to Inside the Five Brewing Co. at 127 Third St, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Please sign up on the kiosk so I know how many are coming. They do not take reservations, but going early, I was assured there would be plenty of room for us. I am looking forward to trying a new place. Bring a friend!! Call Becky King with any questions at 419-349-7319.

Prairie Meadow Update

The native plants in the Prairie Meadow are growing "like weeds"! The early summer blooms are well underway with Foxglove Beardtongue, Coreopsis, and Yarrow all in full bloom. Other species will be following soon. Pollinators and deer have taken advantage of the native plants available in the Prairie Meadow. If you have a chance to stop out to appreciate the rapid growth in this corner of God's Kingdom this year, please do so. The addition to the Prairie Meadow has had its first application of herbicide and will soon undergo its first tilling to allow more seeds in the seedbank to grow later in the summer, with more herbicide applications to follow.



foxglove beardtongue



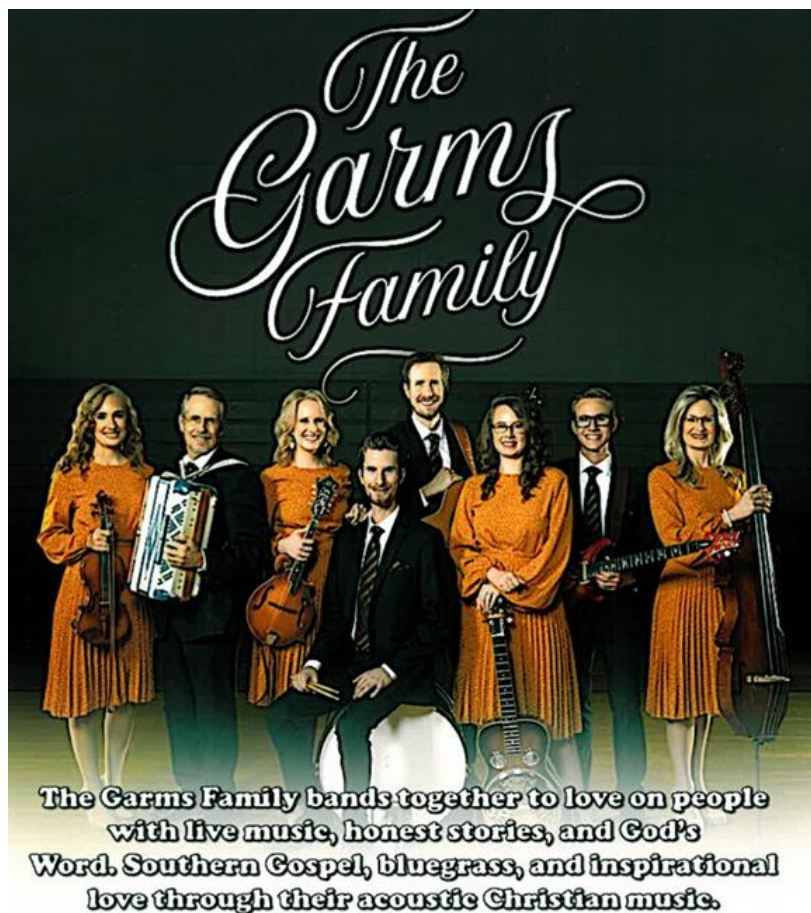
coreopsis



yarrow



Announcements



The Garms Family bands together to love on people with live music, honest stories, and God's Word. Southern Gospel, bluegrass, and inspirational love through their acoustic Christian music.

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025 4:00

Community Of Christ Lutheran Church
6517 Finzel Road
Whitehouse, Ohio 43571
419-877-0607

a free-will offering will be taken

Concert Committee Invites YOU to hear the Garms Family Acoustic Gospel Concert—July 27 at 4:00 p.m.

This summer, the Concert Committee is pleased to host the Garms Family, a musical ensemble and family that “bands together to love on people with live music, honest stories, and God’s Word.” On the afternoon of Sunday, July 27, at 4:00 p.m., join us in the worship space for a concert featuring piano, drums, fiddle, banjo, bass, mandolin, and more. A free-will offering will go to the performers as they make their tour, sharing music across the country, but no tickets are required. We hope you’ll take time out this July for an afternoon of good music as we welcome the Garms Family this summer!

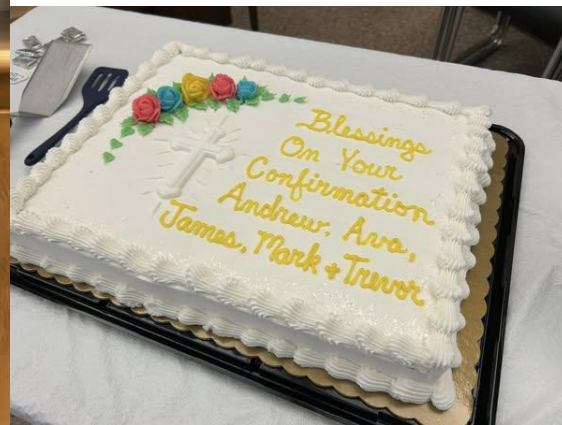
Olive wood handcrafts from the Holy Land



Confirmation

Congratulations to our five new confirmands, Mark, James, Ava, Trevor, and Andrew, who affirmed their baptisms on Sunday, June 1, 2025!

We rejoice with you!



Loving Our Neighbors



Thanks to the generosity of Community of Christ folks, we have been able to donate all these items to Bridge of Hope. This is a ministry out of Fremont, to help provide needed items for migrant workers! You all are amazing! Thanks too to our helping hands who took these carloads down to Fremont!

Thank you
from the Bridge
of Hope and LIFT.

Without your contribution
we would not be able
to serve those in our
community that come
seeking work & to
support their families.
We appreciate you
& all that you do

— Destinee
Chapa





Loving Our Neighbors



Big thanks to our youth and adult volunteers, to our generous community members who brought cars to be washed and made donations, and to one delightful Krispy Kreme driver who gave us free donuts too! Thanks to all of you, we raised more than \$699.80 to go to Neighborhood Bridges! Thanks everyone!



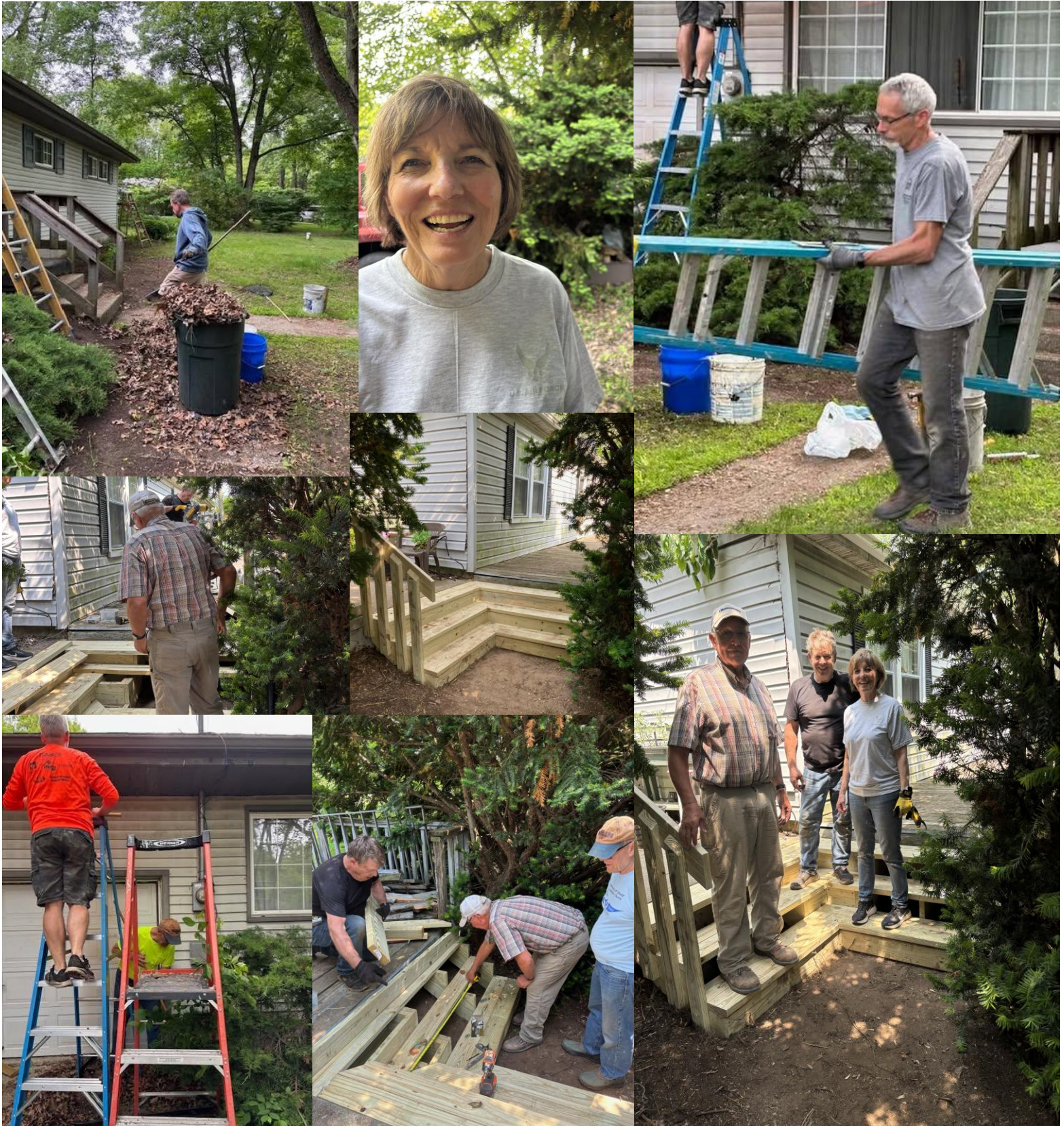
Thanks to the folks who walked in the Cherry Fest parade, giving out candy, bracelets, and smiles! Great job, everyone!



Loving Our Neighbors



Our Toolbox crew was out and about recently doing some repairs on a neighbor's house—thanks for your awesome work, everyone! Thanks for sharing God's love with your time, hands, and skill!





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.
May	\$11,118	\$12,563	(\$1,445)
YTD	\$71,084	\$67,315	\$3,769
2025 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
May	\$25,588	\$38,586	(\$12,997)
YTD	\$174,133	\$186,518	(\$12,385)

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



Donald Schroeder 07/03
Kathryn Meyers 07/03
Elaine Lammon 07/04
Kathryn Whitacre 07/04
Norman Brettel 07/04
Diane Ohns 07/05
Jackie Schalitz 07/05
Michael Mock 07/06
Nolan Bucher 07/06
Pamela Mead 07/06
Bea Ludwig 07/07
Nathanael Yokum 07/08
Tim Owczarzak 07/08
Ursula Winkelman 07/08
Lorri Britsch 07/09
Simon Gottwald 07/09

Barney Stewart 07/10
Brea Weber 07/10
Jami Williamson 07/12
Molly Wachtmann 07/13
Evangeline Boytim 07/15
Kay Terveen 07/16
Ginny Fahrer 07/17
Grace Donley 07/17
Mariah Britsch 07/17
Mitchell Stewart 07/20
Thomas Ohns 07/20
Vera Mae Reid 07/20
Audrey Smucker 07/22
Mallory Smucker 07/22

Gloria Eberly 07/24
Karen Battles 07/24
Marsha Cochran 07/24
Stephen Bond 07/25
Troy Baden 07/26
Tyler Baden 07/26
Jim Stiles 07/28
Rick Metcalf 07/28
Susan Nofzinger 07/28
Kathy Phillips 07/29
Rob Archer 07/29
Diane Kuhlman 07/30
Amy Brenneman 07/31
James Fritz 07/31
Robert Sautter 07/31

****Summer Worship Schedule****

****Sunday Morning****

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

Join us in person or watch live on
Facebook.

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

