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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



Welcome August

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
August 4, 10:30 a.m.

Social Action
August 6, 10:00 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

**Monday,
September 1st**

August 2025—The Hand At Our Back

In our weekly summer Story Hour times on Tuesdays here at the church, we have a regular activity called "Mystery Bag," where one of the kids brings three items from home (often toys) and we pull them out of our mystery bag, so that, one by one, we can think and talk about how that object reminds us of God or connects to something in our faith. We've had action figures and toy animals, sunglasses and musical instruments... and a couple of toy bikes, too.

And recently, when a miniature two-wheeler (about the size of an action figure to ride) was pulled out of the bag, it brought to mind memories from the adults in the room of when we were the ones learning to ride a bicycle. Some remembered wistfully all their scraped knees and bumpy sidewalks from childhood streets. Others remembered wondering as young kids how a bicycle knows to stay upright when someone is pedaling. Some of the kids talked about their progress with training wheels and when they might be able to take them off of their bikes. And just about everyone had a memory of having a hand at our backs as we rode—a parent or grandparent who walked along right behind us as we pedaled. They kept up at our pace and did the difficult work of balancing how much to support and how much to let us find our own momentum. They were there to encourage and cheer, and they were there to pick us up when we crashed, so we could start all over again. And even decades later, we recall the presence of that loving hand at our back that helped to learn how to do something that seemed impossible before.

Whatever else it means to be disciples of Jesus, I think it means at least something like that. We are learning, as we follow Jesus, to do things we never thought possible before. We love in new ways, go to new places, find unexpected courage, meet new people, share our faith, serve our neighbors, and face new challenges. But we never do it alone. The Christian life isn't just about sitting still, leaving ourselves unchanged and unchallenged, but about that daring—even risky—move beyond our comfort zones. As scary as it can be to a kid taking off the training wheels for the first time, it can be scary to consider that Jesus is leading us to new places, meet new people, act in new ways, and try new means of serving and loving. We are creatures of comfort and routine quite often, and we can put up a lot of resistance to anybody—even Jesus—daring us to put our feet on the pedals. And yet, as anyone who has mastered bike riding can tell you, there is something amazing, freeing, and thrilling about that sensation of taking off on a bicycle, trusting the rules of physics to keep those two narrow wheels upright as you accelerate, and remembering the presence of the hand that guided you forward.

FROM PASTOR STEVE, CONTINUED.....

In these weeks, our focus within our “Life on the Edge” year has been on “The Edge of Discipleship,” and the realization that following Jesus will stretch us, challenge us, and push us into new directions. We will find ourselves trying new things (like our spiritual practice series on Thursdays), beginning new ministries (as our new Children, Youth and Family Ministry Facilitator brings fresh ideas and energy), walking down new streets in the city, or crossing the road to introduce yourself to a new neighbor—and maybe invite them to worship. Whatever that newness looks like, and whatever nervousness it brings along, remember what we first learned on the day the training wheels came off in childhood—there is always a hand at our back.

Let’s go this August, together as disciples blazing new trails in this *life on the edge*.

Christ’s Peace,
Pastor Steve

**Meet Bryce
Hinegardner**



**Our New
Children,
Youth, and
Family
Ministry
Facilitator**

Hi everyone! I’m really excited to be part of the Community of Christ family and to jump into this new role. I’ve worked in a few different fields, most recently in software sales and before that as an archery technician and coach, but something I’ve always come back to is how much I enjoy working with kids and youth. It’s just something that brings me joy and feels really meaningful.

A big part of my life has been spent at Camp Union, where I’ve been a counselor and where I’ve had some of my most faith-shaping experiences. It’s also where I met my wife, Codi. She teaches sixth-grade English and Social Studies in Pettisville and is also a director at camp. We live in Liberty Center with our one-year-old son, James (or Jamie, as we usually call him). He’s a ball of energy and keeps us laughing with his love of story time and throwing things across the room.

More than anything, I’m passionate about helping people grow in their faith and experience the peace and joy that comes from having a relationship with Jesus.

I can’t wait to get to know you and your family! As we move into this next chapter of ministry for Community of Christ, feel free to come say hi, or if you’d like to grab coffee sometime or set up a time to chat, just let me know. I’d love to connect. You can either call the church office or email me at

cyfdirector@commofchrist.org.

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Hard Sayings Of Jesus—Summer Sunday Adult Forum

Continuing this August, 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. to 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!



Crazy Faith Talk Spots "Divine Fingerprints" (see also attached logo for Crazy Faith Talk)

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. 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 August, "Crazy Faith Talk" is in a series we're calling "Divine Fingerprints," exploring places in creation where we have seen signs of God's character or glimpses of God's hand. From the abundance of lemon balm growing in a garden to the clever protection mechanisms of a mother killdeer for the eggs in her nest to all sorts of other things in nature, we're training the eyes of our hearts to see the presence and design of God in the world around us. Here in this series, we share a few of our favorite examples, so 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!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in August: Rare Birds--Introducing Lesser-Known Prophets

You probably recognize the sound of a robin in your yard or the sight of a bright red cardinal at your feeder. Those birds are plentiful and familiar to many people in this part of the country. But every so often, you'll spot something you've never seen before or hear a peculiar birdsong and wonder what it came from--and who knows, maybe you've gotten to see a yellow warbler or an indigo bunting for the first time, or maybe a heron or an eagle! To be honest, there are times in our study of the Bible where it might feel like we are spotting rare birds like that, too. We probably have a decent familiarity with the Gospels, or with some of our favorite passages in Paul's letters or the psalms, and maybe a few favorite Old Testament stories from childhood Sunday School memories. But then there are those books whose names sound strange and unfamiliar, with names like "Obadiah" or "Habakkuk" that we don't remember reading before. Who are these people, and what did they have to say? What did their voice contribute among the more familiar sounds of robins and wrens like Isaiah or Moses? That's where we're headed in our next Thursday afternoon Bible study series, starting August 7th at 1:00 p.m. Our series on Amos that has run for most of the summer so far has now concluded, and we'll be taking one week off before our Thursday Afternoon Bible study will pick up on a new series, just for the month of August. This short four-part series is a study of those "Rare Birds" from among the minor prophets--and we'll get a chance to survey several of them, find out what their message and ministry looked like in their own time, and then explore what they have to say to us in our own day, too. Everybody is welcome, and you don't need to bring anything but a Bible--meet us in the Bible Study/Council room starting on August 7 at 1:00 p.m.!



Attention Ladies! September is quickly approaching, so that means the **Tuesday Ladies Bible study** will be starting sooner than we think! The first day of class will start on September 9th @ 8:30 am. This fall, we will be reading "The Mothers & Daughters of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. Please purchase the book and the workbook that goes with it as soon as possible. I am asking you to read the first chapter, "Jochbed and Miriam," and complete the first chapter in the workbook so that when we meet on the first day, we can dig into the study. The workbook is not difficult and will enhance our discussions. Also, Vicar Natalie will be joining us for some of the lessons and will lead the discussion. This is a change from what we have done in the past, but I think it will be a great change of pace for us. Invite a friend & be sure to sign up on the kiosk so I will have an idea of how many will be attending. Questions or concerns? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. See you in September!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Coming August 10: Intern Pulpit Swap!

On Sunday, August 10, we'll have a special guest with us in worship as part of our ongoing hosting of Vicar Natalie as our seminary intern. Neighboring intern Jacinda Jones, who is serving her internship in Findlay and is also a seminary classmate of our Vicar Natalie, has proposed a "pulpit swap" for the two interns, so that each can get the experience of preaching in a different setting among different people, and to get a different set of ears to listen and give feedback. So, on August 10, we'll have Vicar Jacinda Jones preaching at Community of Christ, and our Vicar Natalie will get the chance to preach in Findlay for just one Sunday. Here is Vicar Jacinda's introduction to us:

Hi! My name is Jacinda Jones, and I'm a seminarian at Wartburg Theological Seminary, currently serving as a vicar at St. John's Lutheran Church in Findlay, OH. I'm entering my final year of seminary and am currently in the internship phase of my journey. I'm married to Jammie Jones, and we have three wonderful sons. Our youngest just graduated from high school! A fun fact about me: I love writing stories for children, because really, who wants to grow up? Adulthood is hard! I'm excited to spend time with your congregation this August and grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside you in faith and community.

We would love you to be here on Sunday, August 10, to get to hear another up-and-coming voice of church leadership, both for Sunday worship and for the Adult Forum afterward.

Spiritual Practices

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 gathers on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please continue to join us from now until Thursday, **August 28th**. 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 are 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.

You're Invited to Our End-of-Session Picnic!

Join us for a picnic celebration during our final session on **Thursday, August 28!** We'd love to see you there as we wrap up the season with great food and fellowship. Please sign up at the kiosk or on Sign Up Genius so we can plan accordingly. A **free will offering** will be accepted to help cover the cost of the meal. Any extra funds will go toward supporting our concert ministry. We can't wait to celebrate with you—thank you!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



Spiritual Practices - Taize
Worship 07/10/2025



Spiritual Practices - Improv
07/17/2025



Spiritual Practices – Faith5
07/24/2025



Worship Volunteer Schedule



AUGUST 2025



Week	Aug 3	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 24	Aug 31
Acolyte/Crucifer	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga
Bulletin	Volunteer Needed	Becky King	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Neil Raymond	Carol Wiemken	Neil Raymond	Kevin Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean	Sue Brown	Sue Brown	Josef Perkins	Kari Swagler	Bea Ludwig
Greeter East	Volunteer Needed	Marsha Cochran	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Carol Wiemken	Marsha Cochran	Kathryn Whitacre	Becky King	Kathryn Whitacre
Worship Asst	Josef Perkins	Cheryl Fischer	Don Schroeder	Dean Nofzinger	Teresa Loga
Verger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 07/19/2025. 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.

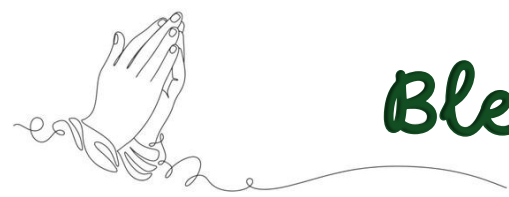
Bulletin Assistants: Arrive 15 minutes before service to pass out bulletins. Count the number of people in attendance (including worship volunteers and all in the nursery if applicable) and mark this number on the chart inside the kiosk.

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, MATT JURRUS, TRISTAN KIMMEY, CAROL MASON, SANDY MCPHERSON, AMY MEAGHER, FRANK O'KONSKI, DOROTHY PETRELL, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, STACI, NATALIE RILLING, DICK RISON AND PHYLLIS STURGEON
MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE

Prayer Requests



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 family of Lois Wise. 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.



**God's blessings on the quilts created by our Material Girls.
Thank you to our amazing quilters!**



CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



VISITATION MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date

August 4 @ 10:30 a.m.



Outreach

Next Meeting Date

August 5 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

August 6 @ 10:00 a.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.

August 24, after Worship: LEGO Faith Builds and Youth Facilitator Meet and Greet

You may have already seen the news that our new Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Facilitator, Bryce Hinegardner, began a new venture in ministry here at Community of Christ and neighboring congregation Providence earlier this summer in mid-July. If you haven't already, please read Bryce's own self-introduction in this newsletter. But we would also invite you to a coffee hour time after worship on Sunday, August 24, in the Fellowship Hall for a chance to meet and talk with Bryce if you haven't had the chance yet, over some light refreshments. We will ALSO be offering an opportunity for kids of all ages to do a LEGO Faith Build during that time, where we'll take some time to build and make things out of LEGO bricks and to talk about how they might connect (no pun intended—well, maybe a little) to our faith and relationship with God. Since our Spiritual Practice session on the Thursday before will be LEGO building with Pastor Chris Hanley (from Glenwood Lutheran in Toledo), we wanted to give an extra opportunity to build, play, and reflect some more just in case you can't make the Thursday evening event in the busyness of getting back to school year routines, or in case you went and had so much fun you wanted to build more! So, join us after worship on August 24 (no Adult Sunday School Forum that week, so that you can come to the Meet and Greet) for time with Bryce and guided LEGO Building, too! Hope you can join us!



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?



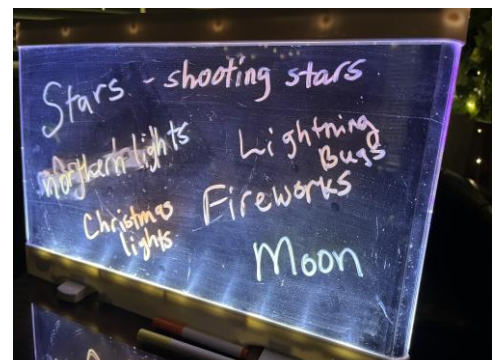
Four of our friends completed their book list cards and picked out prizes from the prize basket for finishing the list of books! Hurray!



STORYTIME WITH OUR LITTLES!



Children's Summer Story Time
Our last day will be Tuesday, August 12th
10:00-10:30 a.m. in the church library.





ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Stickers from Social Action Support Salem

One of our ongoing mission partners in the Toledo area is Salem Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran congregation in Toledo and an ongoing presence for good in the Old North End neighborhood of Vistula. You may well have read about or participated in their weekly Tuesday night meals for the community, helped with Trunk or Treat in their parking lot, planted trees across the street, or participated in the Angel Tree gift giveaway for kids in the North End. You might have also seen or heard about their new monthly initiative called “Breakfast Church,” where they offer a free breakfast as part of Sunday worship once a month. In other words, our friends at Salem are doing good work all the time to feed neighbors, invite them to worship in ways that nurture both body and spirit, and to care for their community. And we are blessed to get to connect with that good work where Christ is present at many points throughout the year.

So, here’s one more way you can help support our mission partners at Salem in the various ways they work to feed neighbors around them and reflect God’s goodness in their neighborhood. We have these new stickers that will be available starting August 3, and we’d invite you to take one for a suggested donation of \$5.00 each. We’ll take all the proceeds and send them along to the food ministries at Salem. These stickers feature an original art design and the message, “Abundance is meant to be shared,” which comes from the Gospel reading we’ll hear in worship on Sunday, August 3, from Luke’s Gospel (Luke 12:13-21). You can pick one up from the table in the Gathering Space, make a donation in the box on the table beside the stickers, and know that you are directly helping to feed neighbors, and to share the good things God has placed in our lives, which is exactly what those good things are meant for. We hope you’ll boldly put one of these stickers on something you wear or carry around with you as a way to start a conversation, prompt a moment to share your faith with someone, or to remind you both of God’s generosity and our call to share the abundance God puts in our lives.



Walk with Us - 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. **Additional Details:** “The organizers of our multi-congregational group (with about 30 participating congregations and faith groups from the greater Toledo area) have asked us to gather in front of the mural on 18th and Adams around 11:30 a.m. For those who want to ride together from Community of Christ, we’ll depart at 10:45 a.m. from the church to get a space to park and get to the meeting point. For those who ordered shirts earlier in July, when those are in, we’ll have them picked up and notify you when you get yours at the church. We’ll also share these details via email with everyone who has signed up, whether at the kiosk or online, and if you have any questions, needs, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Steve or Kari Swagler.”



Hymn Sing!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Hymn Sing Sunday!

Come prepared to shout out your
FAVORITE HYMNS as the
congregation gets to choose!

Join us on **Sunday, August 3**, at our
9:00 a.m. service!



Choirs Start in September!

Bell Choir begins on Thursday,
September 4th!

Vocal Choir begins on Wednesday,
September 10th!

Both Choirs start at 7:00 p.m.

All are INVITED to JOIN!!!

Choir will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Looking for new ways to serve the church and also be filled up by the church? Singing in the choir is the perfect balance between giving and receiving. You give the gift of your participation; you receive connection with the gospel message as you join your voice with others to Make Jesus Known.

Choir rehearsals will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 10th, with our first Sunday morning anthem being Sunday, September 28th. Lisa and Eric are excited to reconnect with returning members and eager to welcome anyone who is interested in giving the choir a trial run.

We will be operating on sessions again through Christmas. You are free to participate in as many or as few sessions as your schedule allows. The sessions are listed below. Signing up through Sign-Up Genius or on the gathering space kiosk helps us in our planning.

Session 1 - 9.10-10.12

Session 2 - 10.15-11.2

Session 3 - 11.5-11.23

Session 4 - 12.3-12.21

See you in September!





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Freezer Casserole Prep for Visitation Ministry Thursday, August 14, 2025, | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Church Kitchen

Join us for a meaningful morning of **cooking and caring** as we prepare individual casseroles to stock the church freezer for our **Visitation Ministry**. These meals will be shared with **homebound members, those recovering from surgery, or anyone in our congregation or community needing a little extra support**.

Whether you're a kitchen pro or just willing to help, **all are welcome**. We'll be working together in fellowship to ensure our freezer is full and ready for whenever a need arises.

Come ready to cook, chat, and serve—because even the smallest meal can make a big difference. There is a signup sheet at the kiosk.

For more information, contact Cinda Pontsler at 419-356-9290.

You're Invited: Conversations 'n More – Friday, September 12

Join us for a meaningful afternoon of connection and community at Conversations and More, happening on **Friday, September 12**, in the **Fellowship Hall**.

We'll begin with a **delicious lunch at noon**, followed by engaging **conversations and activities from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to share stories, enjoy fellowship, play some games, and explore thoughtful topics together in a warm, welcoming environment.

Whether you're a regular attendee or coming for the first time, we look forward to seeing you there! There is a signup sheet on the kiosk, so we know how many to plan for.

Please mark these dates on your calendar for future Conversations 'n More events: These meetings will be from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., September 23, October 10 and 28; November 14 and 25. We will not meet in the month of December and start back up on the 2nd Friday in January.

If you have questions or if you need a ride, please call either Cheryl Fischer at 419-345-3033 or Cinda Pontsler at 419-356-9290.

» August »

Ladies'
Lunch

The Ladies' Lunch will be **Friday, August 22nd, at 11:30 a.m.** This month, will be at the Firepit Grille, 7723 Airport Hwy, Holland, 43528. Please sign up at the kiosk so I know how many are coming. Since this is a little further away, if you would like a ride, please indicate that as well or call me. Bring a friend! Call Becky King with any questions at 419-349-7319.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Blessing of the Backpacks



Blessing of the Backpacks on August 17

As we get ready for the start of a new school year, we invite you to join us for the "Blessing of the Backpacks" in worship **on Sunday, August 17**. Like we did last year, we'll take a moment during the children's sermon to dedicate a new school year to God's care and ask for God's blessing on our students, teachers, staff, and administrators. Students (and teachers!) are invited to bring their backpacks to church at our 9:00 a.m. service, where we'll pray together for God's blessing and get a special gift you can put on your backpack, bookbag, or briefcase to remember God's presence with you throughout the school year!

Anthony Wayne Area Youth Back-to-School Back Yard Party—August 24



As we get ready for the new school year, Community of Christ is teaming up with several other area congregations for an AWESOME back-to-school event for youth in grades 7-12 with outdoor games, water activities, refreshments provided by local food trucks, music, cornhole, and prizes! It's all coming up on Sunday evening, Aug. 24, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., and food and drink are provided for all who attend! This is a great event to invite your friends to, as well. We'll have several water games to keep us cool in the weather, so bring a towel and apparel you can splash around in. Join us here at Community of Christ for this second annual event—sign up at the kiosk or through the Sign-up Genius on the church website! This will be a great time, and we hope you'll join the fun and hang out with us!

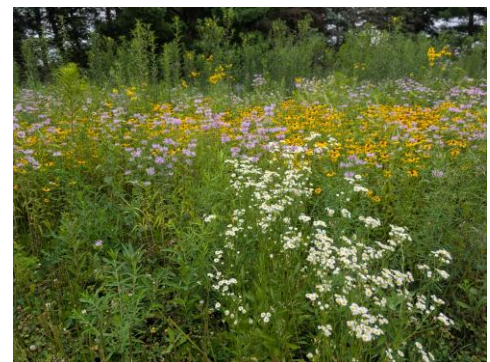
Save the Date: Youth Group Kickoff – September 14

We're launching something NEW! All students in **grades 7–12** are invited to join us for the **Youth Group Kickoff** on **Sunday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m.** This is the start of an exciting year of fun, friendship, faith, and Kingdom living with youth from both **Community of Christ** and **Providence**.

Come meet Bryce, make new friends, play some games, hear what we're all about, and help shape what's next. You won't want to miss it!



"The Prairie Meadow
is all abuzz!"





ANNOUNCEMENTS



New “Be The Evidence of God’s Love” Shirts Coming This August

If you ordered one of our new original, designed t-shirts with the logo “Be the Evidence of God’s Love” on the front and the Community of Christ logo on the sleeve, earlier this summer, look forward to getting yours sometime this August! We’ll have them available on Sunday mornings once they have come in, or you can stop at the church office throughout the week to pick them up. Thanks to your support, all proceeds beyond the costs of these shirts will benefit Neighborhood Bridges of Anthony Wayne Area for their weekend backpack food program for school students. And when you wear your shirt, think of ways you might be the evidence of God’s love for someone else in the world today!

Save the Date for 2025’s Festival of Talents Weekend: October 11-12

We’re still savoring the summer, but we want to get you thinking about something special coming up this fall—a new event for people of all ages that we are calling our Community of Christ *Festival of Talents*! On the weekend of October 11-12, we want to celebrate the many kinds of talents in our church family from people of all ages, from kids to great-great-grandparents, and everybody in between! That will include an evening program on Saturday, October 11, where we can perform and show talents of any kind.

Do you have a musical talent? Bring a song to sing, a piece to play, or share an ensemble with some other folks from Community of Christ! Would you share a piece of artwork you’ve made, or a quilt or afghan you’ve sewn or knitted? Are there handcrafts or wood projects you’ve built, or skills you can showcase? We want to share them all—whether performed like in a talent show or displayed in our fellowship hall and gathering space like a gallery—all of it will be a part of this special weekend! Sign up at the kiosk and let us know about what you’d like to share as YOUR talent!

We’ll also be using that weekend to let our congregational committees have displays and tables to share more of what they do, and how *you* might want to be a part of their ministry. Want to find out more about what the Toolbox ministry does? Interested in learning more about Social Action Ministry or Fellowship? This will be a chance to hear, see, and learn more, too.

But wait! There’s more! Our Festival of Talents weekend will also be a chance to share stories of what each of us has done with the *dollar* that was given to us back in October, when one Sunday morning there were dollar bills stuffed secretly into all of our worship bulletins, and the dare to use them somehow for the Reign of God. (Didn’t get your dollar, or weren’t in church that day? See Pastor Steve, and we’ll get you set!) Maybe you’ve already used your dollar somehow—maybe you bought stamps and sent a card or letter to someone who needed a note of caring; maybe you bought a flower for someone who could use a pick-me-up. Maybe you bought some sidewalk chalk and drew designs with children or grandchildren on a sunny day. Maybe you bought an item of canned food to be donated to the food pantry. Whatever you did—or whatever you might yet do this summer with it, we’ll have a chance to share stories of how we used those dollars for the sake of good in God’s world.

All of this will make for a great weekend between our Saturday program and Sunday worship, and we hope you can plan to be with us on October 11 and then in worship on October 12 to share in the excitement and to celebrate our various talents and gifts from God!

**Festival
of
Talents**



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS



Save the Date: God's Work. Our Hands Project September 12

Every year, each September, congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), our church body, are dared to take on a service project of some kind to help celebrate the anniversary of the ELCA. In recent years, we have planted trees at the growing park and arboretum across the street from Salem Lutheran Church on the North End, and we had an outing to Urban Wholistics garden in downtown Toledo. This year, we are renewing a partnership with the organization "Food for Thought" that makes simple meals and sandwiches to give out to people in downtown Toledo. Look for more details coming to Sunday bulletins and the September newsletter, but for now, we wanted to get the date out to the congregation—so join us on the evening of **Friday, September 12**, in the ballpark of 6:00 p.m., but stay tuned for final information soon. We hope you can join us to help feed neighbors and to let ourselves be instruments for God's grace to flow through us and into the lives of others as part of our witness to the world!



Thank you to Vicar Natalie and Sarah Rockwell for assisting our friends from Urban Wholistics in gardening at their Community Green Space in Tatum Park.



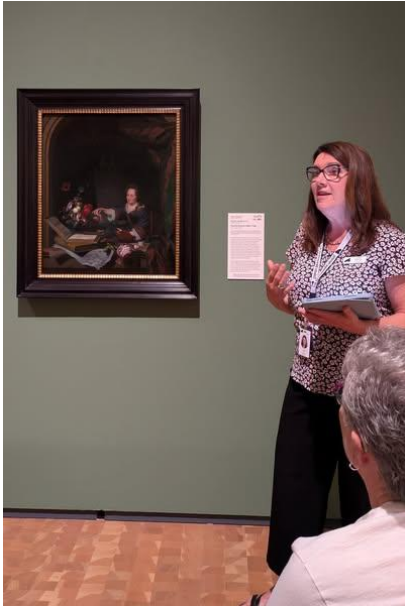
URBAN
WHOLISTICS



Community of Christ LUTHERAN Church

July Events

Fellowship outing to see the Rachel Ruysch: Nature into Art exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art. Thank you to our Community of Christ member (and museum docent) Lisa Alleman for organizing and leading this outing! Thanks for helping us learn to see the beauty of God's creation and the gifts of artists who can capture it for our attention!



Thank you, Ned and Nancy Challen, for organizing and introducing the Garms family to our friends at Community of Christ! Everyone who attended enjoyed their family's musical talent!





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 the 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.
June	\$16,323	\$12,563	\$3,760
YTD	\$87,407	\$79,878	\$7,529
2025 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
June	\$33,139	\$34,088	(\$948)
YTD	\$207,273	\$220,606	(\$13,333)



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



Janessa Bucher	08/02	Makayla Stewart	08/13	Ann Reisner	08/20
Elaine Hetherwick	08/03	Pat Rison	08/13	Bryan Smith	08/22
Melinda Peters	08/04	Saundi Ludwig	08/13	Sarah Rockwell	08/22
Mark Winkelman	08/05	Steve Smigelski	08/13	Bill Reisner	08/23
Stephanie Phillips	08/05	Cassidy Taylor	08/14	James Fifer	08/24
Ava Davis	08/07	Graci Pollock	08/14	Tim Holliker	08/24
Linda Nichols	08/07	David Malohn	08/15	Bruce Meyer	08/25
Carrie Tuohy	08/08	Joel Schuchmann	08/15	Kelly Reid	08/25
Shelby Myers	08/08	Max Weber	08/15	Rosalie Stewart	08/27
Lauren Swartz	08/10	Evelyn Bucher	08/17	Brian Jones	08/28
Wilfried Schubert	08/11	James Merritt	08/17	Josie Hartbarger	08/28
Dave Greenhagen	08/12	Katherine Ray	08/17	Kerrianne Powers	08/29
Myron (Dave)	08/12	Kathy Chamberlain	08/17	Catherine Malohn	08/30
Myerholtz		Mark Bond	08/18	Karen Jennings	08/31
		Morgan Taylor	08/18	Sandy Boehly	08/31

****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

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Like us on Facebook
Community of Christ Lutheran Church