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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Making Jesus Known*



**October 2025**

### **Worship Hours**

**Sunday,**  
**8:00 a.m. and**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Morning**  
**Bible Study**  
9:15 a.m.

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

**Social Action**  
October 2,  
9:00 a.m.

**Worship & Music**  
October 2,  
10:00 a.m.

**Visitation Ministry**  
October 6,  
10:30 a.m.

**Outreach**  
October 7, 7:00 p.m.

**Christian**  
**Education**  
October 13,  
6:30 p.m.

**Council Meeting**  
October 14,  
7:00 p.m.

**Concert**  
October 28  
6:30 p.m.

**Stewardship**  
October 30,  
6:00 p.m.

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

**Church Office**  
**Closed**  
**Monday,**  
**October 13**



## **October 2025—The Gift of An Outsider's Perspective**

There's a story in the Gospel of Luke (we'll hear it this month in worship on October 12, actually) that disarms me every time I read it. It starts out with Jesus on the road, as he so often is, and this time he is approached by a group of ten people who are all sick with the miserable sickness known in the biblical world as leprosy. It had debilitating effects and was feared to be highly contagious, but there was no easy remedy or medicinal cure for it in Jesus' day, so the only strategy for dealing with it was to try and contain the contagion. People with leprosy were forced to live outside of cities, towns, or villages, cut off from their families, friends, and old neighbors, and would live in little enclaves of other people living with the same diagnosis. Beyond that, those who suffered from this disease were supposed to shout out, "Unclean!" when other people approached, just to make sure they kept away—for the purposes of preventing the spread of the sicknesses (it was sort of a crude form of "social distancing" before the COVID pandemic taught us that language a few years ago).

Anyway, if you got sick with leprosy, you were already an outcast—you literally could not live with your family or community unless you got better and were pronounced "clean" by the priests (the closest thing to experts that might have been available at the time). On top of that, for a lot of people, their default assumption was that if you got sick with leprosy, it must have been a punishment from God for your sin, or the sin of someone else connected to you (like a parent). So not only did you have to be cut off from the ones you loved most, but there would probably have been a good many scowling faces when strangers walked past you on the road, quietly condemning you for being a sinner (they assumed) who had committed some abominable trespass. To be sick with leprosy in the first century put you on the margins, without a doubt. And needless to say, it was not a very pleasant life.

So, when these ten people with this very contagious skin disease approach Jesus, asking for him to show mercy on them, he heals them all and tells them to go show themselves to the priests for official approval to re-enter society and receive their lives back again. Nine of them go running back into town to find a priest, realizing they have been healed, and are never heard from again. One of them, however, stops cold in his tracks as soon as he realizes what Jesus has done for him, and he turns back to offer thanks to Jesus. And as it turns out, Luke tells us, the one who stopped to say thank you was a foreigner—a Samaritan, who had probably gotten more than his share of scowls and condemnations from people already before he even got leprosy. As an aside, Jesus remarks that the only person who returned "to give glory to God" was this outsider, who was already on the margins before his diagnosis, and that the other nine "insiders" didn't even bother to give Jesus a second thought.

And yet... Jesus doesn't undo the miracle for the ungrateful. Jesus doesn't take back the healing for the nine who never came back to practice good manners and say, "Thank you," and neither did Jesus heal the Samaritan as a reward for his good show of etiquette first. The gift was out there, to all of them, and Jesus took the risk that none of them would be thankful or appreciative, and he did it anyway. Such is grace, and such is the particular God we meet in Jesus (since, as Jesus himself says elsewhere in Luke's Gospel, God is "kind to the ungrateful and the wicked"—see Luke 6:36). God's grace is unconditional, given out to well-mannered good boys and girls as well as to stinkers... like me. That's my only hope.

# FROM PASTOR STEVE, CONTINUED.....

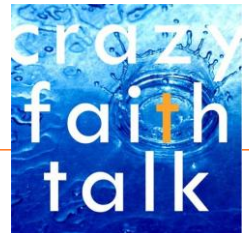
In fact, the more I think about this story, the more I realize that's part of why God is worth thanking and praising in the first place: God is good even when I don't deserve it, merciful when I haven't earned it, and gracious even when I have not practiced the good manners of saying a word of thanks. And yet, when I realize that about God, it leads me... directly to thanks and gratitude. Part of what I guess I find myself thanking God for is that God is willing to be good to me even when I haven't said thank you.

I mention this story now, not just because it will be in our ears again this month in worship, but also because this month we are also asking our whole congregation to consider how we will respond to God's grace with our time, talent, and treasure. And I want us to be clear that just like in the story with the ten people sick with leprosy, God doesn't threaten to stop loving us if we don't give back enough or share our time and talents sufficiently. God has entrusted all sorts of good things into our lives as a complete and utter gift of grace, and God doesn't seem inclined to take them away if our etiquette isn't perfectly polished. But when we realize that about God, it makes us all the more grateful, and all the more inclined to give God back what we have first been given. It's the realization that God's love doesn't *depend* on what we give back that makes us able to give back to God all the more *freely*. God takes a risk in loving us unconditionally and giving to us graciously—when we realize that, it has a way of calling forth our gratitude more deeply.

Maybe it takes a story like this one from Luke, or the perspective of an outsider like the Samaritan in the story, to realize it. And maybe that's part of why it's worth especially listening to the voices from the margins who have things to teach us as much as we might think we have things to give to them—as we are discovering in our Sunday morning “Who Is My Neighbor?” series. This October, we invite you to let all of these things lead you to deeper gratitude and a more faithful response to God's grace in our lives. Join us in worship to wrestle with these stories, to learn from neighbors with a new perspective, and to offer our lives back to the God who loved us first.

See you along the way.

Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Steve



## Crazy Faith Talk Highlights “Profiles in Courage”... from Church History

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. We are also excited to announce the return of conversation partner and colleague Erica Wellner, who had to take time away from the microphone and her ministry life earlier in 2025 to deal with recovery from surgery and health issues. So now, with all four voices back in the conversation, we're ready to explore new topics and see where it takes us. 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 October, “Crazy Faith Talk” continues the series we began earlier in the fall, called “Profiles in Courage.” In the first half of this series, we explored the stories of people in the Bible who showed courage in unique and often surprising ways. Now, in the second half of this series, we are lifting up stories of individuals and communities from the last two thousand years of church history who embodied faithful bravery for their times and places, from a lesser-known story about Saint Francis of Assisi to a village in Franche that hid Jewish refugees during World War II, and others along the way. And just as we have already seen and heard from the biblical figures in the first part of this series, we'll discover anew that there are many ways to be brave in our day and time, as we listen to the direction of the Spirit to spur us to act, to speak, to serve, and to love in our own lives. There's something for everyone, 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



## Continuing This Fall in Adult Forum: Who Is My Neighbor?

Join us on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (9:00-9:50, the hour between services) for our current series, "Who Is My Neighbor?" Over the course of this series, we are getting the chance to hear from voices who can speak to the experience of neighbors near and far whose stories and needs might be quite similar to our own, or very different. In September, we were able to hear about the work of the children's homes overseen by Genacross Lutheran Services, including one in our own area as well as one in Liberty Center, and also about the Anthony Wayne Community Food Ministry and the weekend food bags given to local school students through Neighborhood Bridges. This October, we'll get to hear from folks like Pastor Mike Hanck about the community being built by the "Norf-End Neighbors" in the Vistula neighborhood of Toledo around Salem Lutheran Church, Synod Staff member Calla Gilson who has spent time doing Young Adult Global Mission work in Israel and Palestine, and Destinee Chapa from the Fremont Area "Bridge of Hope" program that helps migrant workers with supplies they need. Join us for these conversations in October on Sunday mornings, as we get to know neighbors around us, and learn what they can teach us about God from their own vantage point!

## Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: "Faithful Rebels—Case Studies in Devout Defiance"

Continuing into October, our Thursday Afternoon Bible Study is engaged in an original series we're calling "Faithful Rebels," looking at stories of holy troublemakers who went against the flow, spoke up against the powers of the day, or witnesses in countercultural ways in their own times and places. From the Hebrew midwives in Pharaoh's Egypt who saved the babies that the king ordered to be killed to prophets like Elijah challenging their own leaders, to the men in the fiery furnace refusing to bow down to a golden statue of an arrogant king, the Bible is full of stories in which God worked through people who bravely stood up against the expectations (or official decrees!) of the day as part of their way of living out their faith, caring for those in danger, or pointing to the presence of God in the world. If you have been looking for a good jumping-on point to join a Bible study, this is a great chance to join us! We meet every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council Room here at the church, and we'll continue to share video summaries each week on the church Facebook page and on YouTube in case you can't be with us in person. Join us this fall to explore stories of devout defiance from faithful rebels!

## Confirmation Class Kicks Off for the Fall



CONFIRMATION  
CLASS

Our Confirmation program is growing—and now in full swing for the fall! Our first-class session was back on September 21, and we have nine students from Community of Christ and a good number of students from Zion in Waterville, too, for a great group of young people exploring their faith! This year, our focus is a year-long journey through the Bible, and our next class session is on October 5 at 12:30 p.m. here at Community of Christ! Later on this fall, we'll get to go on two great field trips to learn more: an outing to the Toledo Museum of Art, guided by our own Lisa Alleman, to learn more about the ancient cultures in history that intersect with biblical stories, and then a trip to Temple Shomer Emunim, a synagogue in Sylvania, where we can learn more about the faith of ancient Israel from Jewish neighbors today! Thanks to the families of our students for making the commitment to be a part of our confirmation program this year!



# Blessing Our Pets



## Blessing of the Animals—October 4!

Animals are one of the wonders of God's creation, and our pets are especially dear to us as members of our households and families. So, this fall, Community of Christ is once again offering a chance to participate in the tradition of having a Blessing of the Animals as a way of offering specific thanks to God for our pets and asking God's blessing on them. We offered this for the first time last year, in 2024, and it was appreciated by many, both from our congregation and from our neighborhood. If you would like to bring your pet for this experience, we'll be offering a window of time when you can come to the front door of the church building (the doors with the benches) and Pastor Steve will offer prayers of blessing, as well as a special tag that can go on a leash or collar as a reminder of God's love and care for all creatures. The blessing of individual pets doesn't take long (pets tend not to like sitting through long sermons), but you can come anytime on the morning of Saturday, October 4, between 10:00-11:00 a.m. outside the main entrance to the church. Bring your dog, cat, rabbit, turtle, or whatever other creatures you like, and we'll have a chance one-on-one to give thanks to God for them and to ask God's blessing on them as well, any time during that hour. We hope you'll take a moment to bring your pets and give thanks to God for the companionship and love they bring into our lives!

# Worship Volunteer Schedule



## October 2025



Week	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00</b>	Josef Perkins	Laurie Mauro	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler
<b>Bulletin 8:00</b>	Becky King	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>Bulletin 10:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>Camera</b>	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell	Rick Yokum	Kevin Swagler
<b>Communion Prep/Clean 8:00</b>	Dana Schmidt	Carol Wiemken	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins
<b>Communion Prep/Clean 10:00</b>	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	Kari Swagler
<b>Geeter West 8:00</b>	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>Greeter East 8:00</b>	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>Greeter East 10:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
<b>Greeter West 10:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Rob Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
<b>Lector 8:00</b>	Dana Schmidt	Carol Wiemken	Becky King	Volunteer Needed
<b>Lector 10:00</b>	Tammy Myers	Volunteer Needed	Elaine Hetherwick	Cheryl Fischer
<b>Worship Asst 8:00</b>	Josef Perkins	Laurie Mauro	Cheryl Fischer	Teresa Loga
<b>Worship Asst 10:00</b>	Marlene LaChine	Kevin Swagler	Kara Yokum	Don Schroeder
<b>Verger 8:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Becky King
<b>Verger 10:00</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

**\*\*Volunteer list as of 09/24/2025. If you need to cancel your scheduled date, please arrange for another volunteer to take your place and fill your time slot. Remember to cancel your slot on Sign-Up Genius so the person covering for you can sign up.**

**Lectors:** The readings are available for preview on our website at [www.commofchrist.org](http://www.commofchrist.org) under "Worship and Bulletins" and then the appropriate bulletin date.

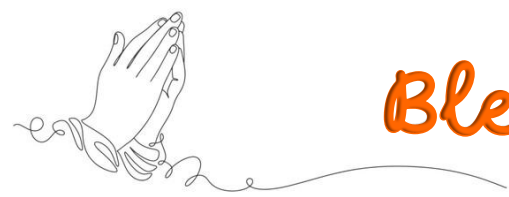
**Bulletin Assistants:** Arrive 15 minutes before service to pass out bulletins. Count the number of people in attendance (including worship volunteers and all in the nursery if applicable) and mark this number on the chart inside the kiosk.

**Door Greeters:** Arrive 15 minutes before service to greet members and visitors at the doors of both entrances of the church.

**The Verger:** is a caretaker role who keeps their eyes and ears open to lend a hand for any need that arises with congregants or worship providers during the service.

Should you have any questions, please contact Laurie Mauro at (419) 877-5366. Thank you all for your time and attention to helping make our Worship Services run smoothly!





# Blessings & Prayers

# Prayers

## PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

**REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE ILL, SHUT IN, RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED, MILITARY, OR IN NEED OF PRAYER:**

GREG AUBELL, MARTINA BENTON, SHIRLEY COFER, VIRGINIA DILLON, TOM DRUSCHEL, JIM & SUE ENK, LARRY GEER, SALLY GOETZ, PAULA GRUHLER, CINDY HARTBARGER, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, TOM JENNINGS, MATT JURRUS, TRISTAN KIMMEY, CAROL MASON, MILES MCGINNIS, DOROTHY PETRELL, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, STACI, NATALIE RILLING, DICK RISON, AND PHYLLIS STURGEON, TOM THORNE  
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!!!!



### All Saints Day---November 2

We will remember in prayer our family and friends who rest with the Lord. Please include the name of your loved one on the list posted at the kiosk. **The deadline for names will be Sunday, October 26.** Thank you.

### Prayer Shawls

If you are interested in making a prayer shawl or know of someone who would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl, please contact Cheryl Fischer 419-345-3033.



**Thank You!** We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously provided salads and desserts for recent funeral luncheons. Your gifts of time, care, and food have been a true blessing to the families we serve during their time of loss. If you brought a dish, your containers are ready for pick-up on the cart located in the kitchen.

# CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 2 @ 9:00 a.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 2 @ 10:00 a.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 6 @ 10:30 a.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 7 @ 7:00 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 13 @ 6:30 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 14 @ 7:00 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 28 @ 6:30 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
October 30 @ 6:00 p.m.



We had a great first Sunday of Sunday School on September 14, and we are excited that we get to gather every week for more stories, activities, and friends to spend time in God's Word! Kids of all ages are invited every week, from **9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.** (between services). Hope to see you on Sunday mornings!







# Youth and Teens!



Our new Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Facilitator, Mr. Bryce, shares the love of Jesus with the kids during the Children's Sermon +



The Community of Christ and Providence Youth Group is officially up and running! At our first gathering, we dove into a creative game (inspired by *Settlers of Catan*) to explore scarcity, abundance, and how the first disciples shared with one another. We also began wrestling with big questions like: *Why are you here?* and *What does it mean to belong to a youth group?*

If you're in grades 7–12 and are looking for a place to have fun, explore the Bible in new and meaningful ways, and be part of a community of belonging, this is for you!

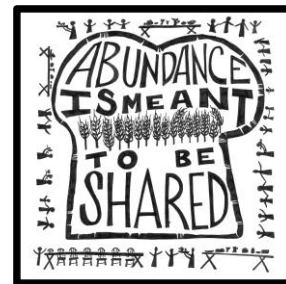
Our next meeting is **Sunday, October 12, from 7:00–8:30 p.m. at Community of Christ**. Come check it out—we'd love to have you there!







# Announcements



## New Tote Bags 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 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 care for their community. And we are blessed to get to connect with that good work where Christ is present at a number of points throughout the year.

We are continuing our partnership with Salem in a number of ways this fall, and one of them is to once again plant some additional fruit trees in the growing arboretum adjacent to the church (see more about that opportunity elsewhere in this newsletter article!), and we are inviting your support of the costs for those trees with a new tote bag that can be great for carrying groceries, wrapping gifts, or holding your personal items on a day’s errands. These tote bags have the same design as the stickers we made available earlier this August, with the message, “Abundance is meant to be shared,” echoing the Scriptural call to use our resources for the good of all, and Jesus’ teaching that “To whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48). You can still get stickers in the gathering space while supplies last this October, and you can get one or more of these tote bags on Sunday mornings at the table in the gathering space as well, and know that you are directly helping to feed neighbors, to plant trees, 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 carry around with you or use one of these tote bags as a way to start a conversation, prompt a moment to share your faith with someone, or remind you both of God’s generosity and our call to share the abundance God puts in our lives.

## STAY TUNED! Seeking Helping Hands for Planting Trees at Salem 🌳 🌳 🌳 🌳

Coming up this October, we are organizing an outing to help plant trees at the budding (no pun intended—well, maybe a little!) arboretum adjacent to Salem Lutheran Church as Pastor Mike Hanck and the Norf-End Neighbors organization continue to help improve their community in the Vistula neighborhood of downtown Toledo. We can use YOUR help with planting these trees on an upcoming weekend—stay tuned for more details in the near future, and we’ll invite your help with a sign-up at the kiosk soon!



**The Material Girls Quilt Ministry** would like to thank all our volunteers either in cutting squares, organizing fabric, assembling squares, ironing lots of fabric, sewing tops, cutting batting, quilting, and binding, and for your friendship. We are blessed to have a lot of quilt tops that need to be sewn together. If you are unable to attend our gatherings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gathering space, and you’re able to sew together some tops or bind quilts back from our quilters, we need your help! Please contact Rose Ackerman at 419-308-6808 or Joan Bierley at 419-575-3419 and leave a voice message. Also, if you’re donating fabric to be used in our quilts, please leave it in the bin marked “donations” in the Sunday school room near our shelves. Thank you again!



So far this year, we have made and donated 55 quilts to Bed Build!





# Announcements

LADIES'  
LUNCH



LADIES'  
LUNCH

## 🎉 October Ladies Lunch – Last One of 2025!

Ladies, let's make the **final lunch of the year** a special one! Join us at **Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano** (Levi's Commons, Perrysburg, OH) on **Friday, October 24, at 11:30 a.m.**

✨ **Bring a friend and enjoy good food and great company!**

📌 **Sign up at the kiosk** so we can reserve your spot.

📞 **Questions? Call Becky King at 419-349-7319.**

Don't miss out—it's the perfect way to catch up before the year ends!

## Book Club



**October 21, 2025,**

Fever in the Heartland: the Ku Klux Klan's Plot to take over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan



**Mail a Smile &**



**Share God's Love!**

Let's brighten the days of our **Military and College students** with notes, cards, and little treats! Pick up an updated address list in the **gathering space** and help us **"Make Jesus Known"** while they're away. Your kindness can make a big difference!



**Boo to Do – A Night of Fun!**



**Thursday, October 23, 2025, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Downtown Waterville**

Put on your favorite costume and join us for **Boo to Do** in Downtown Waterville! Community of Christ members, along with local businesses, will be ready with **candy, stickers, and small toys** to make your evening extra sweet. 🍬 ✨ When you're done filling up your treat bag, stop by the end of Farnsworth Road by River Road to enjoy tasty bites from **four yummy food trucks**:



**Detroit Mini Donut**



**Jimbo's Tasty Chili Dogs**

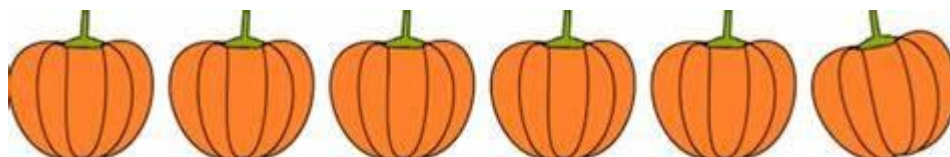


**Susie Lynne's Lemonade**



**Toledo Chuck Wagon**

Bring your family, bring your friends, and don't forget your candy bucket—it's going to be a joyful night for everyone!







# Announcements



## Cookie Sunday is fast approaching – October 19.

We will need volunteers to help bake and frost cookies on Friday, October 17, from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

We will need volunteers to help package the cookies on Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 to 12:00 noon.

If you can come for the entire time, great! If you only have an hour to give that day, that is welcome too!

Please see the sign-up at the kiosk.

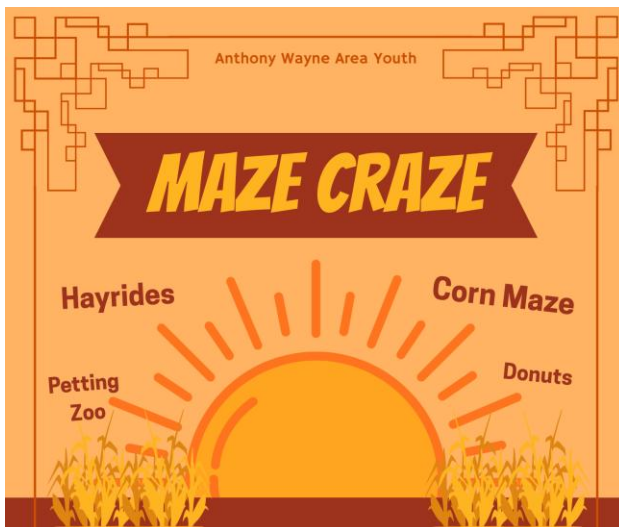
As we have done in the past, there will be bags of 6 cookies each to hand out to those who would like to brighten someone's day, whether it be a friend, teacher, co-worker, grandparent, etc. These bags will be handed out after both the 8:00 and 10:00 services on the 19th.

## Casseroles!

We will be preparing casseroles on Thursday, October 23, from 9:00 to noon. If you can come the entire time, great! If you only have an hour to give, that is welcome too!

There will be cards for donations of ingredients in the pocket chart located on the side of the refrigerator in the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who has donated either the ingredients for the casseroles, money to buy the ingredients, and/or their time to prepare the casseroles. We appreciate your help!

Sign up at the kiosk for the 23rd.



## - Corn Maze Craze – October 19



Our next Anthony Wayne Area Youth Group event is right around the corner! On **Saturday, October 19**, we'll load up the buses at **Community of Christ at 2:15 p.m.** and head to **Gust Brothers Farm** for an afternoon of fall fun—complete with a corn maze, hayride, petting zoo, and fresh doughnuts.

All youth in **grades 7–12** are welcome—so bring a friend and join us for this adventure!



☀️ Embark on the Journey of a Lifetime: A 9-night Greek Isles Mediterranean Cruise with Jeff and Tina Baden, and Kristi McLelland! ☀️

Is a Mediterranean cruise on YOUR bucket list? We would love for you to join us alongside renowned author and Bible scholar Kristi McLelland on an unforgettable nine-night cruise from April 24 to May 3, 2026! It's a powerful opportunity to deepen your understanding of scripture from the New Testament like never before! As a well-known speaker, teacher, and college professor with a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Dallas Theological Seminary, Kristi's insights will unlock the Bible's relevance through a historical and cultural lens. Imagine the connections you'll make as you experience the places where biblical stories unfolded!

We will be sailing through the waters of Italy, Greece, and Turkey—beginning in Rome. Destinations include Chania, Crete, and the iconic Santorini in Greece, ancient Ephesus in Turkey, and the magnificent Mykonos and Athens in Greece, then a stop in Naples before returning to Rome.

Many of us ladies have been touched by Kristi's impactful teachings during our recent Ladies' Bible studies at Community of Christ. This opportunity is sponsored and discounted by LifeWay, her publishing company. Spaces are limited, so act fast! We would love to have you join us!! Questions? Reach out to Tina at 419.345.9589.



# Announcements



## Amanda Worthington Releases Heartwarming Holiday Album: *Christmas with Amanda Worthington*--November 9 at 3:00 p.m. at Community of Christ 🎄 🏛️

Coming next month, our own Amanda Worthington is delighted to share her love of music and the spirit of the season with a special concert at Community of Christ to mark the release of her second album, *Christmas with Amanda Worthington*. A lifelong member of Community of Christ Lutheran Church, Amanda's musical journey began early, singing in her first choir at age 4 with the Community of Christ's Kids of the Kingdom choir. She credits her church family for nurturing her passion for music and faith throughout her life.

A graduate of Anthony Wayne High School and Bowling Green State University (Class of 2009 and 2014), Amanda brings both warmth and professionalism to her performances. Outside of music, she is a dedicated 2nd-grade teacher at Frank Elementary for Perrysburg Schools, where her students inspire her every day.

An avid performer, Amanda has appeared in more than 35 community theatre productions since 1999, showcasing her talent and love for the stage. When she's not singing, teaching, or performing, she enjoys reading, playing cards, snuggling with her beloved poodle, and traveling with her wonderful husband.

With *Christmas with Amanda Worthington*, listeners can expect a joyful blend of classic carols and heartfelt favorites—perfect for celebrating the season. Join us for a free concert at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9, at Community of Christ, where a free-will offering will benefit the Community of Christ building fund and mission partner Salem Lutheran Church, and where you will also be able to get a copy of Amanda's new album, featuring songs she will have shared with us that day!



Making or listening to music is one of the purest forms of prayer. If you enjoy hearing the choir sing, we will be singing the following anthems at the 10:00 am service on the Sundays indicated. If you want to do more than listen, it's not too late to join in the singing. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

10.12 - Time and Talents Sunday, Offertory - by John Ness Beck

10.26 – Reformation - Grace by Mark Hayes

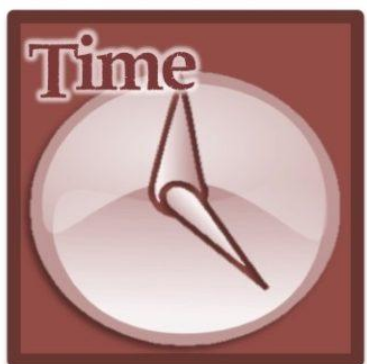
11.23 - Christ the King - Rise Up This Joyful Day - by Mozart, Arr. Liebergen







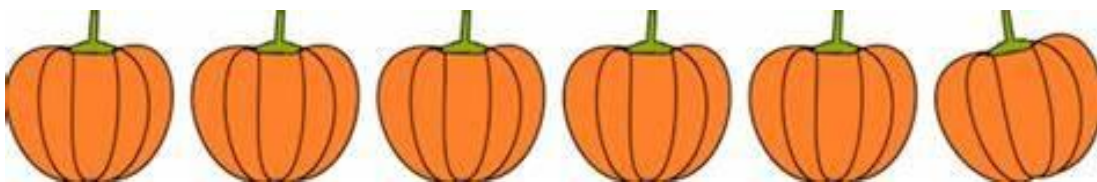
# Announcements



## Offering Our Time, Talent, and Treasure for 2026

Once again, this October, we are inviting everyone at Community of Christ to prayerfully consider how YOU will use your time, *talent*, and treasure—all gifts from God—in the year ahead, with our Time and Talent forms, and our invitations to Financial Commitment for the year 2026! You've already been given incredible gifts by God: the hours in each day, the abilities and interests that make us unique, and the resources we live on. Those are already in your hands, like a present waiting to be unwrapped and taken out of the box. This September, your household should have received new Time and Talent forms and Invitation to Financial Commitment forms for 2025-2026—if you need a new one, we've got extras in the gathering space at church! Then we ask you to complete those and return them to the church by October 12, so that we can get new volunteers connected with the ways they are being led to serve, and so that we can make our proposed 2026 budget grounded in realistic expectations of our planned giving.

Now, maybe you're wondering, "How do my gifts and talents fit in our church family, and where do we need volunteers here at Community of Christ?" Well, good news there, too! At our October 11-12 Festival of Talents weekend, we'll have displays representing each of the areas of ministry in our congregation so you can learn more about what we do and how you can be a part of it. Think of it like a career fair or college expo, but for serving God and God's people—check out the displays for each ministry at Community of Christ and let that help guide where you might serve in the year ahead! It's all about opening up the gifts God has already given us!





## Calling All Talented Saints (That's You!)—2025 Festival of Talents on Oct. 11 at 7:00 p.m.

As we did last year at our first-ever “Festival of Talents,” we are once again inviting YOU to share your talents and celebrate the talents of others this October at our second annual Community of Christ *Festival of Talents!* On the evening of Saturday, Oct. 11, 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, at 7:00 p.m., 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! Are you a poet? Would you share a poem you have written? Are you exploring drama as a hobby or class at school? You could share a performance of a monologue, poem, or scene! 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 Ministry or Fellowship? This will be a chance to hear, see, and learn more, too.

But wait! Here'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 last 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 it 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 on October 11 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday worship on October 12, and we hope you can plan to be with us for all of it to share in the excitement and to celebrate our various talents and gifts from God! Sign up at the kiosk in the church gathering space and see Pastor Steve with any questions!



The flowers pictured in the photo are New England Aster, Heath Aster, and Sneezeweed. It is Aster season in the Prairie Meadow!





# Loving Our Neighbors



Thanks to our folks who made sandwiches for Food For Thought as our “God’s Work. Our Hands” service event for this year—these were given out in downtown Toledo, where a shared meal among strangers sparks a conversation, breaks down barriers, and blesses neighbors! Way to make Jesus known, friends!



Thanks to all from Community of Christ who, along with folks at Maumee United Methodist, donated these items for migrant workers through Bridge of Hope in Fremont, and thanks to our intrepid volunteer crew for gathering and transporting these items! Way to make Jesus known!







# Loving Our Neighbors



## Men's Group Volunteers Time and Talent

Thanks to a men's group from Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse, Ohio, several light construction and maintenance projects have recently been completed at the Anthony Wayne Group Home. The group home operated by Genacross Family & Youth Services provides care and treatment for up to 10 at-risk youth.

The men's church group, known as "The Toolbox," built and installed 10 cubbies in the garage for the children's shoes and coats; removed old, broken furniture and carpeting from the basement; and built and installed cubbies in an upstairs closet.

"This has been a massive benefit for the structure of the house, as something as simple as putting your shoes and coats up every day and general organization can build routine," said Daniel Daugherty, Director of Residential Services for Family & Youth Services.

While the youth seem to really appreciate the cubbies in the garage, according to Mr. Daugherty, the bigger positive is "members of the community taking their time to help us with simple yet important tasks goes a long way in helping the youth feel cared for."

"When we see a need in the community, we try to help with maintenance and light construction projects," said Dean



On what was once blank walls in the Anthony Wayne Group Home's garage, now stand sturdy cubbies for coats and shoes built and installed by a men's group from Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse, Ohio.

Nofzinger, a member of The Toolbox ministry. The group has completed such tasks as hanging drywall, fixing water leaks, building steps off a deck, and building a wheel chair ramp. "Simple stuff that can make a real difference."

## Helping to feed our neighbors at Salem Lutheran Church



Thank you to our members, Wayne King, Dave Rockwell, and Kathy Heckler, for "Making Jesus Known" by assisting Pastor Mike Hanck and a crew of others at Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo. Your dedication to this ministry is appreciated by all you serve!





# Loving Our Members and Neighbors



Thanks to all who made today's Blue Jean Sunday outdoor service and brunch such a great time!





# Loving Our Members and Neighbors



Our first of the season start of our biweekly "Conversations and More" kicked off with a delicious lunch (tasting the recipes we use for stocking our freezer), followed by cards and greeting cards, inspiring us all! Thanks to all who could come and join us!!







# 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.
<b>Aug</b>	\$11,509	\$12,563	(\$1,054)
<b>YT</b>			
<b>D</b>	\$111,541	\$105,004	\$6,537
2025 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
<b>Aug</b>	\$30,660	\$33,870	(\$3,210)
<b>YT</b>			
<b>D</b>	\$271,757	\$285,624	(\$13,867)



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



Brian Smucker	10/01
Jillian Dewitz	10/01
Lawrence Mustafaga	10/01
Lydia Smucker	10/01
Debbie Warner	10/02
Mary Jo Bright	10/02
James Fischer	10/03
Keith Carpenter	10/04
Kyle Ruhe	10/05
Nadine Wise	10/07
Robyn Spilker	10/07
Kyle Gebhart	10/08

Heather Boytim	10/09
Judith Mock	10/09
Matthew Davis	10/09
Emily Steinman	10/11
Sharon Bucher	10/13
Alicia Lipinski	10/14
Dawn Ray	10/14
Joshua Hartbarger	10/14
Neil Nutter	10/14
Richard Knight	10/14
Douglas Ackerman	10/15
Dean Nofzinger	10/16

Carol Heuerman	10/19
Luke Rardin	10/19
Natalie Dewitz	10/19
Andrew Carman	10/20
Connie Hudson	10/20
Doris Disher	10/22
James Matthews	10/22
Ellen Nowak	10/23
Evonne Johnson	10/26
Marek Boytim	10/26
Flo Hannum	10/29
Autumn Gebhart	10/31



Sept. 2, 2025

Dear Cheryl & Cookie Committee,

As my second week of senior year at the University of Dayton begins, I would like to sincerely thank you for the amazing cookie care package. It was such a joy to share the sweet treats with my five roommates. I loved the conversations it started about my church family. While I miss being at home, I am working hard to fulfill God's plans for me at school. I am looking forward to seeing you all during the holidays.

Go Flyers!

- Haley Reid

Thank  
you!

The church office will be closed  
on Monday, October 13, 2025

Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Monday through Friday)

419-877-0607

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

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

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Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church