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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



December 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.

Visitation Ministry

December 1,

10:30 a.m.

Social Action

December 3,

10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music

December 4,

10:00 a.m.

Christian

Education

December 8,

6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting

December 9,

7:00 p.m.

Lay Internship

December 15,

11:15 a.m.

Worship Services

Available on the net
at

www.commofchrist.org

Church Office

Closed

**December 24, 25,
and 31**



Advent (December) 2025—Welcome to the Peaceable Kingdom

Imagine a little lamb reclining on a grassy field and leaning up against... a mama wolf. Imagine a fearsome lion, learning to eat grass beside the year's new calves. Imagine a heifer lovingly nuzzling... a bear cub.

It sounds like nonsense, doesn't it? It's too far-fetched—the stuff of fairy tales and children's stories, right? Natural enemies, at peace like that? Predators and prey, able to live together without anyone afraid of being eaten? It sounds downright impossible.

Except... that's exactly the kind of vision that the prophets give us as we hope for the new creation that the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, will bring. God has been teaching us—in words we'll be hearing again this Advent—to dream bigger than we dared, to imagine a world where all are at peace, and no one is afraid, and to hope for God to make all things new. The Spirit has been inspiring us to believe that God can gather creatures as different as wolves and lambs and bring them into a new kind of community where all are safe, and no one has to be anyone else's lunch.

This Advent, as those powerful images from the Scriptures echo in our ears and hearts, I want to invite you to picture God doing that same kind of thing—even if in small ways and little glimpses—among us as God's people. As a new church year begins this month, we'll be starting a new theme for 2026, "Found Family: Claimed Together in Christ," that is all about God's way of gathering unlikely outsiders and beloved misfits into a new kind of family—one in which we have *been found*, and God promises we belong. Well, that's the peaceable kingdom of the prophets, too, isn't it? The only way lions and lambs, cows and wolves, could ever be at peace together is if God brings them all together and enables them to lie down in peace. And maybe that's what God is doing in this strange and beautiful motley crew we call the Church: bringing people from different backgrounds and perspectives, different stories and situations, into a new kind of family in Christ. In a time when the divisions and fault lines between people seem sharp and often insurmountable—red states and blue states, card-carrying "conservatives" and self-professed "progressives," small town and big city, and diverse faith traditions (not to mention UT versus BG, Lions versus Browns, or those who shout "Go Blue!" versus "Go Bucks!")—maybe it can feel like there's no way we could sit across the table from... **THEM** (whoever you picture as "them"), much less belong together. But if ours is the God who dares us to imagine a new creation where wolves and lambs recline together in peace, and where swords and other weapons are beaten into plows and other farming tools, then we can dare to believe this God can gather us together into a found family as well, despite all the ways that might seem impossible.

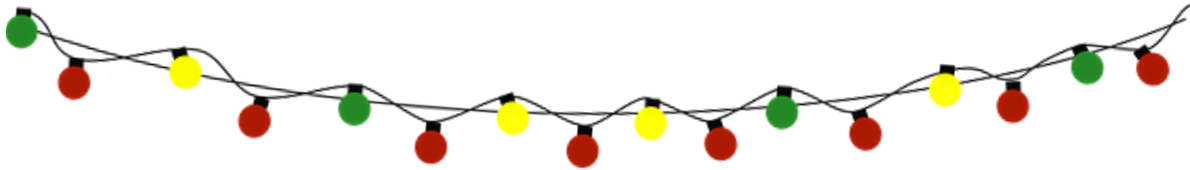


From Pastor Steve Continued.....



That's the invitation this Advent: to see how the same God who promises a new creation in the promised Messiah is making a new community among us, too. And if God can assemble the unlikely gathering of night-shift shepherds and traveling Magi alongside glorious angels and a weary couple looking for a place to deliver a baby, then God can gather us, too, into the found family of the body of Christ. Join us this season for the beginning of that adventure.

Christ's Peace,
Pastor Steve



Crazy Faith Talk Podcast Recounts Stories of the Spirit for the Season

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 Methodist colleague Erica Wellner, who is serving in central 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 Advent, we're exploring stories of real-life moments in this season of the year where people experienced the Spirit of God in their lives in some way. These stories range from the serious and somber, like the dark space of the No-Man's Land between the trenches in World War I, to the light-hearted and local, like the story of the Toledo Christmas Weed of 2018. And over these weeks, we'll explore how we look for and recognize those divine fingerprint moments in our own lives, whether it's near Christmas or any time of year! 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



Weekly Thursday Bible Study Continues Sampling Wisdom Literature

Our weekly Thursday Afternoon Bible Study series continues on Thursdays this December (taking Christmas Day and New Year's Day off), as Pastor Steve and Vicar Natalie introduce us to the Wisdom Literature in the Bible. These are a set of writings in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament that offer perspectives for daily living and the meaning of life, community, work, and goodness. They can be as short as a fortune-cookie fortune (like the Proverbs), as expansive as a philosophical treatise and memoir (like Ecclesiastes), as dramatic as the saga of Job, and as romantic as the poetry of Song of Songs. So, think of this series like a charcuterie board—a sampling of the different flavors and textures of all these kinds of wisdom literature in your Bible, which you might be led to study and read more in depth on your own. Join us on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council room, with weekly video summaries up online on our church Facebook and YouTube as well. See you around the table!



Join us Wednesday Nights for Advent Midweek Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

We call Jesus the “Prince of Peace,” and we sing that on the night of his birth “all is calm, all is bright.” But quite often our lives are especially hectic and stressful in the weeks before Christmas, aren’t they? From gift-buying and cookie baking to parties and concerts, from decorating our houses and family gatherings, we can feel flustered and frazzled during the “most wonderful time of the year” rather than at peace. So we want to invite you to a weekly chance to hit the pause button on the craziness and be re-centered on the Good News of God’s coming to us in Christ, with our three Advent midweek services using Holden Evening Prayer. On Dec. 3, 10, and 17 (each are Wednesdays) at 7:00pm, join us for a beautiful and contemplative sung setting of Evening Prayer and reflections on the Word that will ground us in our hope for Jesus’ coming. (Choir will rehearse following these services starting at 7:45pm on these evenings.) If you’ve never experienced this setting for evening worship, you’ll definitely want to try it, and this is a fantastic event to invite friends and neighbors to, as well! Join us this Advent!

Blue Christmas Service Offers Comfort and Hope—Dec. 21 at 3:00 p.m.

The holidays can be a difficult time for people, especially if they’re dealing with grief and loss. Whether still working through a recent death, feeling renewed sadness over a long-time loss, or just struggling while others seem full of Christmas-time cheer, this can be a heavy season of the year. So, we’ll continue a tradition we’ve done for the last several years here at Community of Christ by hosting a Blue Christmas service—a time of worship that offers comfort for those who need it, particularly at this time of year, and that connects our faith in God-with-Us who came among us in Bethlehem with our lived experience of loss and grief. This year’s service will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 21, with collaboration and shared leadership from our friends at Hope United Methodist Church as well. As always, it is open to any and all who would find it helpful. You are welcome to invite friends, relatives, neighbors, or community members who might need a moment this season for grief to be named and comfort to be given, together with folks from around our community.

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



Introducing “Found Family” Our Theme for Discipleship in 2026!



There are people in your life who become your support and your safety net, even if you don't share biological or familial connections with them. Sometimes that community of people can be especially important for those who do not have a supportive family at home or are estranged from their loved ones. People sometimes talk about this new circle of love as a “found family” or a “chosen family.” And in many ways, it is a compelling picture of the kind of community we are called to be as the church. We are more than a social club or collection of isolated individuals, but we are not defined by biology, ethnicity, language, or culture—we are brought into a community as authentic and dependable as family, but we have been found by Christ and gathered into it by grace, rather than by DNA.

That's the vision for our theme in 2026, which will guide preaching and teaching, shape worship, and offer direction for devotional and spiritual formation resources throughout the year ahead. We hope to focus on this coming year, starting with Advent 2025 and throughout 2026, on how God's love in Christ has gathered us into a *found family*, and how it is God's grace that has found us and made us to belong in Christ. That's the heart of the Gospel's Good News: God has found us by grace, claimed us together in Christ, and brought us into a new kind of community, not on the basis of our sameness in demographics or like-mindedness or backgrounds, but simply because God says we belong in the family. That is good news worth being reminded of, and it is worth sharing with others, too!

You'll see that focus on Sunday mornings, in Pastor Steve's daily devotions online (at beinggraced.blogspot.com), in visual arts throughout the year, and in other opportunities to learn and grow together. This coming year, our Sunday Scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary will be primarily rooted in Matthew's Gospel, which has a special focus on community and how we live together as “found family” in the church. We hope this time together in the Word will help deepen our connections to one another as a “found family” called Community of Christ, especially in times that can feel fragmented and harried, and that we'll be strengthened in our relationships with God and with one another through this focus.

To get things started, we have a couple of free gifts for anyone who wants one. You can get a 3-inch sticker or a 2-inch square magnet with the new original logo and the tagline “Found by Grace” in the Gathering Space. They're free and just a way of remembering that good news for this year ahead together. Stay tuned for more ways to see our Found Family theme in the year ahead, and keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open for more reminders that we have been *found by grace, claimed together in Christ, and brought in the family of God!*



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Keep Your Eyes Open for Advent Visuals

The weeks before Christmas are a part of a season we call *Advent*, in which we are called to keep watch and keep awake for the coming of Christ. To help us practice that spiritual watchfulness and open-eyed preparation, we have several things to look out for this year, both in our worship space and around the building. See if you can find them all:

- **New Advent and Christmas banners** (*in the sanctuary*)—These four banners were painted by members of Community of Christ in November and feature the figures of the Nativity and Epiphany stories all being drawn together at the center, where Christ will be born. See if you can spot three sheep along with the shepherds, following the direction of the angels, or the gifts of the Magi following the star toward Mary and Joseph.
- **Bethlehem Village** (*in the Gathering Space*)—We created this visual display last year, and it's back by popular demand: see in the Gathering Space a 3-foot by 4-foot model of Bethlehem, including fields outside the town where shepherds are keeping their flocks, and lit houses and buildings where families live and Roman soldiers march through the streets. See if you can spot where Mary and Joseph are seeking to find a place for their baby to be born!
- **Peaceable Kingdom** (*in the display case in the Gathering Space*)—This year's Sunday Scripture readings in Advent will feature the theme of God's coming "peaceable kingdom." In one particular passage from Isaiah, the prophet envisions animals that had been natural enemies now living in peace and safety—the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and others, all led by a child. It seems almost too wonderful to imagine, but that's the vision of God's new creation for which we are hoping in Christ. So, in the glass display cabinet in the front of our Gathering Space, look for a scene imagining that peaceable kingdom and let it spark your own faithful imagination and hope for God's reign of peace!
- **Pastor Steve's Misfit Nativity** (*also in the glass display case*)—Earlier this past year, Pastor Steve shared the unique Nativity scene he has gathered together over the years with mismatched pieces, repurposed figures, and unlikely elements. They don't look like they fit together, except that they belong because they have been claimed to belong. In a way, that's what our theme of "Found Family" is all about: being the people who sometimes feel like misfits or outsiders, but who have been gathered in by God. We don't all match and we don't all look alike, but Christ brings us together. See if you can spot the Misfit Nativity in the Gathering space, too, and know that there is a place for you there, too!



"Prayers for the Peaceable Kingdom"—Collected Prayers for Advent

For the past several years in Advent, we have offered an anthology of daily Scripture readings and original prayers for the season that dovetailed with the Scripture readings we are using in Sunday worship (which are also keyed into the Revised Common Lectionary). In 2023, that collection was called "Astonish Us Again," and last year's collection, "On the Edge of Hope," was also available. Because these have been well-received, this year, we are pleased to offer a new compilation that will connect with our new theme for the year that begins with this Advent (November 30). *Prayers for the Peaceable Kingdom* is a new collection of original prayers and Scripture readings for each day in Advent, drawing especially on readings from the Bible we'll hear this Advent on God's coming reign of peace in which "swords are beaten into plowshares" and "the wolf and the lamb lie down together." This collection is available to you this year either as a printed booklet (in the Gathering Space), as a PDF compilation you can read on your phone, computer, or tablet, or as daily posts on our church Facebook page. These are free, original, and can be shared as far and wide as you would like. Check them out this Advent, as together we pray in hope for the peaceable kingdom of Jesus, our Lord!



Youth Growing in God's Word



Thank you to our Youth!

Our youth recently helped lead the community Thanksgiving service, joining with members from local churches in a shared time of worship. They offered scripture readings and led a special litany adapted from a Jewish Passover tradition, naming the blessings for which they are grateful. Through this experience, they deepened their faith and gained meaningful experience in leading worship. We are proud of the many ways they continue to grow in faith and service.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Sunday School Advent Series

With the beginning of Advent, our Sunday School children have launched a new series following the theme of each week's candle. On December 21, they will celebrate with a birthday party for Jesus. As a special way to help families prepare for Christ's coming, each child will also receive a take-home Advent bag filled with crafts and conversation starters to help connect what we're learning in church with faith at home throughout the week.



Christmas Play - December 14

Practice has started, and you are invited to join us on Sunday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. as the children of Community of Christ joyfully retell the story of our Savior's birth.



Youth Group - December & January Schedule

The joint Community of Christ and Providence youth group continues to thrive! All youth in grades 6–12 are invited to join us Sunday nights from 7:00–8:30 p.m. for fun, faith, and friends. Please note: No youth group on December 28.

December Gatherings

Dec. 7 — Community of Christ
Dec. 14 — Providence
Dec. 21 — Community of Christ
Dec. 28 — Cancelled

January Gatherings

Jan. 4 — Providence
Jan. 11 — Community of Christ
Jan. 18 — Providence
Jan. 25 — Community of Christ



Worship Volunteer Schedule



DECEMBER 2025



Week	Dec 7	Dec14	Dec 21	Dec 28
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Josef Perkins / Teresa Loga	Laurie Mauro / Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed	Nate Yokum
Bulletin 8:00	Volunteer Needed	R and L Metcalf	R and L Metcalf	Becky King
Bulletin 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Neil Raymond	Kevin Swagler	Sarah Rockwell	Rick Yokum
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Susan Raymond	Kari Swagler	Dana Schmidt	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West 8:00	Rick Metcalf	Marsha Cochran	Tina Baden	Linda Metcalf
Greeter East 8:00	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Rick Metcalf
Greeter East 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	N and C Rilling
Greeter West 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Rob Kohntopp	N&C Rilling
Lector 8:00	Josef Perkins	Teresa Loga	Becky King	Teresa Loga
Lector 10:00	Greg Aubell	Tina Baden	Dana Schmidt	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Laurie Mauro	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga
Worship Asst 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Cheryl Fischer	Don Schroeder	Kara Yokum
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 11/19/2025. 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 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 & More 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, GREG GANELLI, LARRY GEER, SALLY GOETZ, PAULA GRUHLER, CINDY HARTBARGER, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, TOM JENNINGS, MATT JURRUS, TRISTAN KIMMEY, PAUL LADD, CAROL MASON, MILES MCGINNIS, DOROTHY PETRELL, ALBERT PRESTON, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, STACI, 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!!!!

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



A note from the pastor

Pastoral Note: In addition to when people are hospitalized or homebound, sometimes folks would just like a visit from the pastor for no special reason at all other than to catch up or share what's on their heart. If you would ever want Pastor Steve to set up a visit with you, whether at your home or at the church, during the daytime or on an evening, please just let us know at the church office, and we can get that scheduled! Feel free to call the church office at 419-877-0607 or email Pastor Steve directly at pscbond@gmail.com. He'll be glad to arrange a time to visit!

Covenant Charter Signing this Advent

Every year at this time, members of Community of Christ are invited to reaffirm their commitment to the life of the congregation by signing the covenant charter in the back of our worship space. Beginning with November 30 and running through December 21, we would ask you to add your name to the charter for the year, continuing the practice that began at the founding of Community of Christ (you can see the Charter in the Gathering Space on the wall, or during these weeks, it will be on an easel in the back of the sanctuary). Think of it as a way of continuing to say "Yes" to being a part of God's work in this place, to growing in faith among this congregation, and to loving and serving together with these sisters and brothers in Christ. There's a place for your name this Advent on the Covenant Charter, just as there's a place for you here!



CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



Next Meeting Date

December 1 @ 10:30 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

December 3 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

December 4 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

December 8 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

December 9 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

December 15 @ 11:15 a.m.



Sunday,
December 7,
immediately
following the
10:00 a.m.
worship service.

2026: Outreach on 1/6 at 7:00pm, and
Stewardship on 1/15 at 6:00pm.



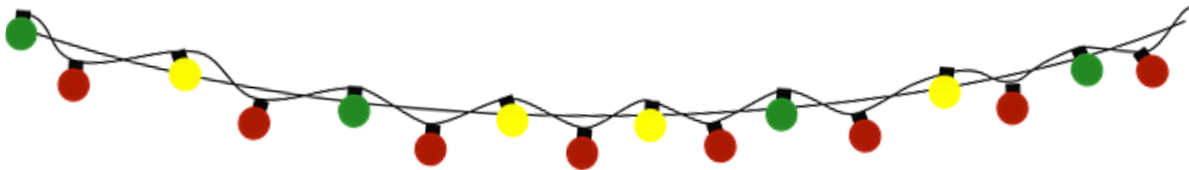
****Deadline Announcements****



Deadline for the January Newsletter**

Looking ahead, due to the busyness of the holiday season and upcoming vacations, the **firm deadlines** for the next newsletters will be:

- **January 2026 newsletter: Tuesday, December 17**



Christmas Eve Services



Community of Christ will host three worship services on Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., & 11:00 p.m. Each worship service will include Christmas carols, candlelight (battery-operated candles for the kids), and Holy Communion.

Invite a friend to worship with you this season!



Youth and Teens!



Announcements

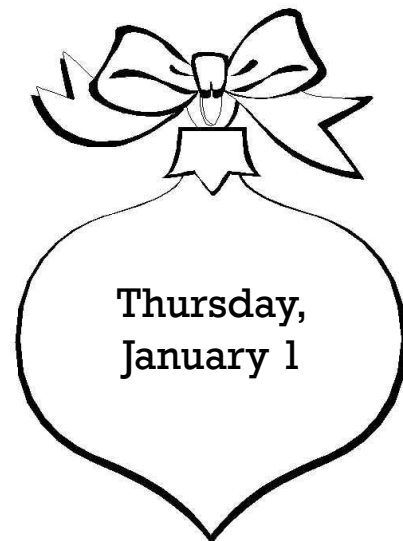
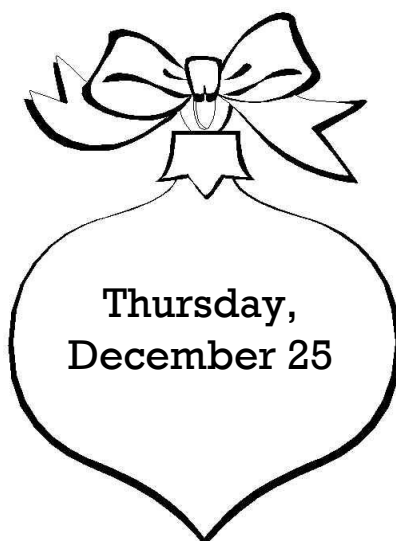


"Peace Be Still" - Women's Retreat

Calling all ladies!! On February 21st, Community of Christ Lutheran will be hosting a women's retreat called "Peace Be Still: Rest, Release, Renew." Take some time to pause and enjoy a restful time of bible study, worship, spiritual practices, and fellowship. Doors will open at 8 a.m. for check-in. Breakfast and coffee/tea bar will be available before the start of the retreat. The retreat will begin at 9 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. Lunch will be included in the retreat price. The cost of attendance is \$50.00. Please feel free to invite other women in your life to attend. Reserve your spot by signing up at the kiosk, by scanning the QR code, or by following this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/RNs14uginT?origin=lpLink> starting in December.

A portion of the retreat funds collected will be given to Salem Lutheran Church to support their food ministry. We will also be collecting for The Period Project, a drive to collect feminine hygiene products to support the needs at Salem Lutheran. We ask that each guest consider bringing at least one item to donate in support of this ministry.

Church Office Closed



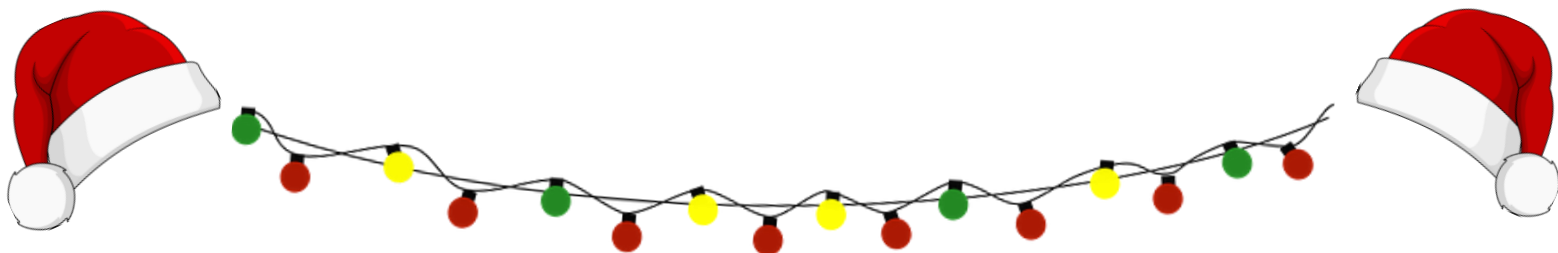
Announcements



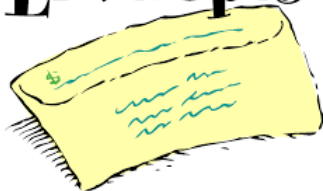
Altar Flower dedications for 2026 will soon be available on the bulletin board in the church hallway. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, please sign up today! Simply fill out a date tag and envelope, include your check or cash along with the tag, and place it in the offering plate.

If you wish to reserve a date but don't have payment with you at the moment, **please leave the tag on the board** so we can keep a record of your reservation. Please do not take the tag with you in this case.

If you prefer to make a donation to the Flower Fund instead, you can use the envelope marked "donations only." We are grateful for your continued support and blessings! Thank you!



**Offering
Envelopes**



Check # 12345

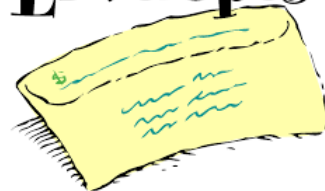
COMMUNITY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
6517 Finzel Rd., Whitehouse, OH 43571

Name: Michelle Gebhardt

General Offering Amount \$ 50.00
Building Loan Offering Amount \$ 50.00
Total \$ 100.00

*"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also." - Jesus*

**Offering
Envelopes**



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Our 2026 offering envelopes will be arriving soon! These envelopes cover weekly offerings, as well as special services such as Lenten Wednesdays, Holy Week, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent, and more. If you have any questions about how to complete your weekly offering, please don't hesitate to contact the church office.

****Please remember****—we also offer an electronic giving option through Simply Giving, which allows your offering to be automatically withdrawn from your account. Please contact Michelle for more information. secretary@commofchrist.org

Thank you for your generous support of the Lord's work at Community of Christ and throughout the Church!

Announcements

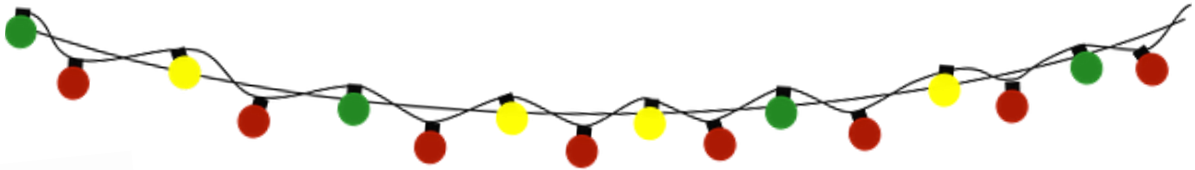


****Adopt a Resident at the Lutheran Home of Mercy!****

Thank you to those who have adopted a resident! Your thoughtful gift can make a significant difference in their lives.

Important Details: Gift Submission Deadline: Sunday, December 7th

Please wrap each gift and place it under the tree in the gathering space. After dropping off your gift(s), please sign them back in with the date on the sheet on the rolling board. This helps us track and confirm that all resident gifts are accounted for. Thank you for your generosity!



Salem Gifts for Children

This year, as in past years, Community of Christ has the opportunity to reach out and bless the children of our sister church, Salem Lutheran Church, in north Toledo. Pastor Mike from Salem provided us with a list of children's names and their gift requests. Both have been incorporated into an envelope and are displayed on the bulletin board in the Gathering space.

Here are some important dates for the project:

- See the bulletin board in the Gathering Place with Salem Angel requests.
- Select your "Angel" and enter your name and phone number on the pink or blue Angel slip on the board. Take the envelope behind the pink or blue slip with you. It has all the information you need regarding the gift request. **Please do not remove the pink or blue slips or relocate them on the board as this is our inventory method.**
- Shop for your "Angel" and leave your gift under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, December 14th, 2025**, is the last day to return your gifts. Please have them under the tree **no later than 10:00 a.m.** Ken and I will be transferring your gifts to Salem that day!

Thanks for helping to bless these children at Christmas! Shelly & Ken Hayes



Announcements



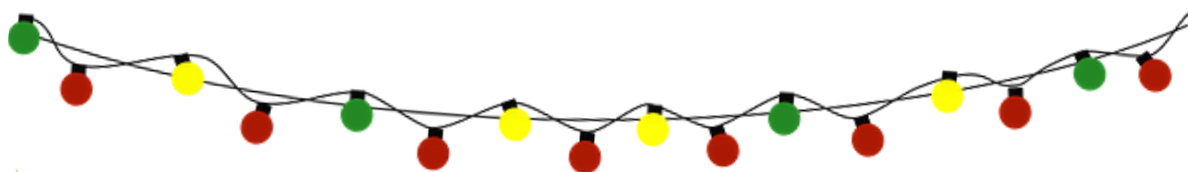
Celebrate the Christmas Season!

Join us to experience the Nativity Festival, Friday, **December 5, from 4-7 p.m.** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo. This is an intergenerational event, so families with children are welcome! We will meet at the Community of Christ parking lot at 3:30 p.m. to ride together. For those who wish to meet up with us, the address is 428 N. Erie Street, located across from the courthouse. Free parking is available in the Kwik Parking lot on the left side of the building, off Erie Street. There will be over 700 nativities from around the world on display, many of them are newly donated by the Bowles family of Swanton. There will be decorated Christmas trees, food, and a concert at 5:30 p.m. - Tapestry and guitar. Any questions? Please call Julie Paulsen at 419-266-4650. The building is handicapped accessible. Free admission ♦ Donations appreciated



The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!

You're invited to come spread Christmas cheer this holiday season by caroling for some of our dear friends who could use a little extra Christmas cheer. We will gather at the Community of Christ parking lot at 5:00 pm on **FRIDAY, December 12th**, to go spread joy. Afterwards, anyone interested is welcome to come to Kevin and Kari Swagler's house for a pizza party. Kindly sign up below so we have an idea of how many to expect.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
JESUS

Youth-Sponsored Congregational Breakfast - December 21

The youth of Community of Christ are excited to host a congregational breakfast on Sunday, December 21, between services! All proceeds from the free-will offering will support updates to the youth room. If you have a child who would like to help by bringing a dish to share, please sign up using the QR code below. And if you're part of the congregation, come enjoy good food, warm fellowship, and support our youth!



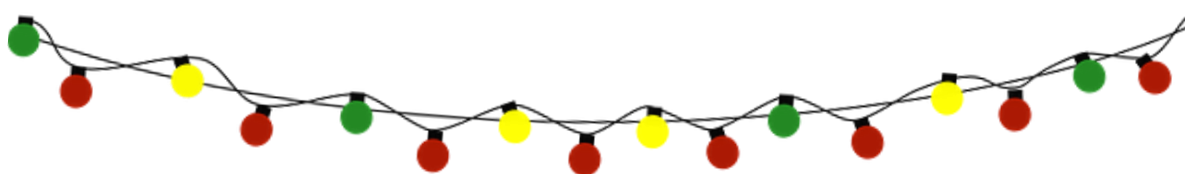
Announcements

Academy Brass Quintet Holiday Concert

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
6517 Finzel Road
(corner of Dutch and Finzel Road)
Whitehouse Ohio
419-877-0607

**Sunday
December 14
3:00**

A free will offering will benefit Salem Lutheran Church
and Community of Christ Lutheran Church



Choir Schedule for the Remainder of 2025

Practices December 3, 10, & 17, and we will sing at the 11:00 p.m. service on December 24th

✨ ✨ ✨ The 2026 practice will start on January 7th with Vicar Natalie and Eric! ✨ ✨ ✨



Loving Our Neighbors





Loving Our Neighbors



Thank you to all who donated food items for the AW Thanksgiving, 180th, and Salem Lutheran Food Drives ♡ and Bryce & the Youth for helping to pack food bags for the Providence Lutheran Food Drive ♡





Advent & Christmas Season Artwork



Our new Advent banners are ready for the start of this year's Advent season.
Thanks to all who helped bring them to life!





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.
Oct	\$26,319	\$12,563	\$13,756
YTD	\$149,715	\$130,394	\$19,321
2025 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Oct	\$51,868	\$40,180	\$11,688
YTD	\$358,413	\$366,362	(\$7,949)



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



Kristi Sutter	12/03	Eryn Ackerman	12/14
Ned Challen	12/03	Debbie Carman	12/15
Tina Baden	12/04	Teresa Loga	12/16
Jennifer Braun	12/06	Andrew Fritz	12/17
Lydia Swartz	12/06	Cinda Pontsler	12/18
Alex Ackerman	12/07	Stephen Meyers	12/21
Kenneth Bucher	12/07	Cindy Smigelski	12/22
Bruce Lammon	12/08	Dan Sigg	12/23
Eric Leonard	12/08	Rory Hartbarger	12/24
Paul Ayres Jr.	12/08	Michelle Hayes	12/28
Victoria Leonard	12/09	Eric Rasmusson	12/30
Riley Myers	12/10	Jay Rasmusson	12/31
Jill Kohntopp	12/11	Marita Perkins	12/31
April Smucker	12/13	Sue Brown	12/31
Jeffrey Bucher	12/13		



Community of Christ will host our next Blood Drive from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks!



Thank you to those who have ordered your Christmas Poinsettias! They will be available for pick-up after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Merry Christmas and Blessings to you all!



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

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

419-877-0607
secretary@commofchrist.org
www.commofchrist.org

6517 Finzel Rd, Whitehouse, OH 43571

