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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



February 2026



Worship Hours

Sunday,
 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning
 Bible Study
 9:15 a.m.

Pastor's Bible
 Study

Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Visitation Ministry
 February 2,
 10:30 a.m.

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

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

Christian Ed.
 February 9,
 6:30 p.m.

Concert Committee
 February 10,
 6:00 p.m.

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

Stewardship
 February 19,
 6:00 p.m.

Worship Services
 Available at
www.commofchrist.org

Ash Wednesday
 Services
 February 18
 Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Services
 Wednesday,
 February 25-
 March 25
 7:00 p.m.

Soup Supper
 February 18 –
 March 25

Called by Christ—February (Epiphany/Lent) 2026

Once upon a time in the 1990s (that's right, this is an anecdote from—gasp!—the 1990s!), there was a moment when the song "Closing Time" was playing on every radio, in the background music at restaurants and shopping malls, and in the soundtrack of trendy TV shows. It's been a minute since the song by the band Semisonic was on the charts, but I bet many will recognize the opening notes of its piano riff or the repeated line, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." I'm not usually one to get my theology or life-wisdom from pop-rock earworms, but that's not too shabby.

Here, as the month of February begins, we are reminded of the overlapping of endings and beginnings, and the bittersweet beauty that comes with both. In the church year, the season of Epiphanytide, that stretched back all the way to the Magi visiting the Christ-child when the Christmas tree was still up, is coming to an end this month, and we'll begin the season of Lent and its steady momentum toward a different tree—the cross of Christ. You can't have the beginning of one without the end of the other. *Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.*

And of course, we are also living in the time of bidding farewell and Godspeed to Vicar Natalie and her time with us over the past year and a half, while also knowing that this ending is what will make the beginning of her ordained ministry possible. You all have been gracious as a welcoming and supportive congregation, and we have been blessed in turn by Vicar Natalie's gifts and time with us. We have also known all along that we were a temporary part of her story, and that her ministry as a pastor can begin only once she has moved on from Community of Christ and discerned where she is called to serve next. We can't have one without the other: *Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.*

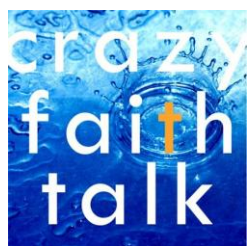
In this life, you can either be permanently sad that things come to an end, or you can receive them when they come into your life, hold them for a time like a breath, and then let them go when it is time for letting go. And in that give-and-take, which turns out to be as natural as inhaling and exhaling, we find both peace and joy. Right now, our calling as a congregation is to celebrate and savor the time we have remaining with Vicar Natalie, and then to commend her into God's care and the Spirit's direction so that she can answer her own calling from Christ, where she will serve in new ways.

And we will also trust that even in a month that is marked by endings, there are new beginnings unfolding for us, as well as for Vicar Natalie, which will come out of this time. The Women's Retreat, being held on Feb. 21, is the beginning of a new dimension of ministry possibilities for us, and a youth overnight lock-in that's coming up this month is another new direction we haven't tried before (see more from Bryce about that event here in this newsletter!). There are new stirrings in ministries with young adults in our congregation as well (no spoilers yet!), and there are exciting things in the planning stages that will be coming to light later on this spring and beyond. The ending doesn't come alone, either—it makes space for the new beginnings. *Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.* Yeah, I guess the band from the 90s was right after all.

From Pastor Steve Continued.....

Throughout these transitional days of letting go, moving on, and stepping forward, the thing that remains constant for us is God. “The One who calls you is faithful,” the apostle Paul wrote twenty centuries ago, and the promise is still true. We have been called by Christ, and at least part of what that means is that no matter how the road changes, twists, bends, and forks, the One who walks with us will not leave our side or let us go. That’s our hope, as each of us answers the calls that come to us.

Sharing the journey with you gratefully,
Pastor Steve



On Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: God Calls Outsiders

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.

Right now, we’re in a series called “God Calls Outsiders,” exploring the recurring theme in the Bible of God’s way of reaching out to the unlikely, unexpected, and otherwise improbable outsiders to bring them into the people of God. From Hagar the Egyptian servant woman who is the first person to name God in the Bible to the wandering Magi following the star, we’ll discover just how often God crosses boundaries and borders to include outsiders, and why that’s good news for all of us. Listen in each week! 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

Worship Whys Adult Forum, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.



Our weekly Sunday Adult Forum continues this February with our current series, “Worship Whys,” exploring our patterns of worship as Lutheran Christians and with our own particular traditions here at Community of Christ. Have you ever wondered why we do certain things in worship, or wondered where they come from? How about the differences in traditions between different Christian denominations, or the ways our practices here are different from other Lutheran congregations in other places? And how have Christian worship patterns changed over time? All of these questions are a part of our new series, “Worship Whys,” continuing throughout February at about 9:00 a.m. in the Bible study/Council room. Everyone is welcome, and we invite you to bring your thoughts, questions, and curiosities!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Thursday Bible Study



Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m., we host a Bible study (in the Council/Bible study room) that is open to all, and so far, this year, we've got a great variety of things to explore in the Scriptures. Here's the slate of topics and presenters we'll be studying in the month of February:

Feb. 5—*Final session of "In the Beginning Was the Word..."*

This will conclude our four-part survey of the opening prologue of John's Gospel and all its rich theology, powerful poetry, and invitation to be in relationship with the Christ whose story is told in the Gospel.

Feb. 12—*Vicar Natalie Presents...*

In a one-session class, Vicar Natalie will share some of her work that she's been doing on her seminary thesis on the Holy Spirit in the creative process, in particular in music. This will be her final time presenting in the Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, so you're welcome to join us for one more last hurrah!

Feb. 19 and 26—*Encountering the Book of Acts*

Starring in the second half of February, we'll be doing a longer deep dive into the New Testament book of Acts to learn the story of the early church and how the band of rag-tag fishermen and tax collectors from Galilee grew into a movement that reached outward to the very heart of the Roman Empire and became a "found family" of Jewish and Gentile people, rich and poor, enslaved and free, women and men, and lived through the growing pains of that outreach to change the world.

Remember, too, that we'll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media each week, so that you can know what we'll be looking at each week in case you miss a week or want to join in!



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY:

THE WAY OF WISDOM: A Study of the Book of Proverbs

WHEN: 8 Weeks, March 3-April 21, 2026 - 8:30-10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Community of Christ Adult Sunday School/Church Council Room

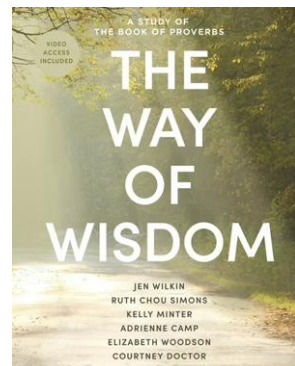
Six women Bible Study Leaders will be helping us understand the true meaning of *Wisdom* as illustrated in Proverbs. The format is to read a chapter in the workbook, do any homework and then come to Bible Study to discuss and ask questions. We will then watch the teaching on the DVD and, if there is time, discuss it! A full morning of learning!

The leaders on the DVD are Jen Wilken, Ruth Chou Simons, Kelly Minter, Adrienne Camp, Elizabeth Woodson, and Courtney Doctor.

Please sign up at the kiosk, or text me, Kathryn Whitacre, with your contact information at 567-393-9444.

Please purchase the workbook *The Way of Wisdom*, Lifeway Press. You can get it directly from Lifeway or (usually cheaper if you have PRIME) from Amazon.

Invite a friend to attend; you don't have to be a member of Community of Christ to take part in this learning opportunity.



Growing in God's Word & Fellowship



Ash Wednesday Worship—February 18 at Noon & 7:00 p.m.



This year, our Lenten journey to the cross and the hope of resurrection that lies through it begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Here at Community of Christ, we'll once again offer worship at 7:00 p.m., including the Imposition of Ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion, and we'll offer a shared light meal together at 6:00 p.m., first in the fellowship hall, as in previous years. This year, we will also offer a mid-day Worship Service at 12:00 p.m.

In case the tradition of *imposing ashes* is new to you—or in case you have always wondered what it's all about!—this practice goes back in some form more than a thousand years in Christian observance and has much older roots in ancient Judaism that connected ashes with public repentance. The marking of our foreheads with ashes in the shape of the cross is meant to be a reminder of our mortality, a sign of our own turning from sin, and a symbol of hope in Christ as well, all at the same time. As our heads are marked with the sign of the cross in a mix of dust, ash, and oil, we hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Of course, we remember as well what God can do with dust, since the storytelling of the Scriptures describes God making humanity out of the dust and breathing life into the clay shaped by God's own hand. We also remember how the cross of Christ was marked on our foreheads in our baptism, and how God's claim of love on us holds onto us through this life, through death, and into the promise of resurrection, much like our journey this Lent, along with Jesus to the cross and eventually Easter's empty tomb. So even though it is a difficult reminder to hear that our lives are not permanent and to be reminded of our sin, we also receive the ashes in the hope that the One who went to the cross for us has still claimed us as his own and brought us into his family forever. This year, our ashes will have been made (with the help of our confirmation students) from the burning of last year's palms from Palm Sunday, continuing a long-standing tradition in the church where last year's "Hosannas" point toward this year's Lenten journey to the cross. This is a really powerful time of worship, which enables us to be honest about our sin and need for a Savior, and also gives us the hope that God's mercy endures forever. We hope you'll join us for Ash Wednesday and bring a friend, a family member, or a neighbor to join this year's 40-day Lenten journey, too!

Wednesday Lenten Dinners at 6:00 p.m. and Midweek Worship at 7:00 p.m. (starting Feb. 18)

As part of the weekly rhythm of the Lenten season, we will once again host a series of simple covered dish meals each Wednesday evening in Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18) at 6:00 p.m. before our weekly midweek evening prayer service at 7:00 p.m. We would invite you to sign up on the kiosk to bring a dish to share, whether a soup, salad, simple dessert, or other elements of a meal to share supper together in fellowship before worship. This year, our Ash Wednesday meal will be hosted (set up and clean-up) by folks from the Outreach Committee, and our other remaining Lenten meals will be hosted by families from our youth and confirmation programs (for parents of youth and confirmands, this should sound familiar to you, but as a refresher, you are invited to sign up on the "hosting" sign-up at the kiosk with another family or two to help with the preparation/set-up and clean-up for one or more of those meals if you are able, and all the free-will offering from those meals will help us save money for future youth activities like the National Youth Gathering coming up in 2027!). We hope you'll be able to share a meal and break bread with other church members and friends and then join us for a brief service of prayer, song, and Scripture at 7:00 p.m. throughout Lent!



Youth Growing in God's Word & Friendship

Youth Group – February 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 a time of faith, fun, and friendship.

We gather weekly for games, discussion, service, and reflection as we grow together in Christ and build meaningful relationships with one another.

For updates and reminders via text, please text “PARENT” or “YOUTH” to (567) 522-0525.

February Gatherings

Feb. 1 — Providence

Feb. 8 — Community of Christ

Feb. 15 — GLO –OVER lock-in at Providence

Feb. 22 — Community of Christ

Youth Series: Exploring Baptism

Recently, in the youth group, we started a new series focused on baptism. What it means, why it matters, and how it shapes our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Together, we'll explore questions like:

- What does it mean to die and rise with Christ?
- How is baptism more than just a one-time event?
- How does our baptism call us to live differently in the world?

Through scripture, discussion, and reflection, youth will be invited to see baptism not just as something in the past, but as a living identity that shapes who we are and how we follow Jesus every day.



GLO-Over Youth Lock-In - Let Your Light Shine!

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to our overnight GLO-Over Lock-In on February 15-16! This special night will focus on the theme of light throughout the Bible, from the first words of creation to Jesus calling us to be the light of the world.

We'll have glow-in-the-dark Nerf wars, black lights, games, worship, an invisible-ink scripture scavenger hunt, and more! It's going to be a fun, meaningful night of faith and fellowship.

Youth should bring:

- A Nerf gun (bullets will be provided)
- Sleeping bag & pillow

Volunteers needed:

We are also looking for adults to help chaperone and serve meals. If you're interested in supporting this event, please visit cocplcyouth.cls.co and click “Volunteer to Help” to see how you might be able to serve.

Thank You for Being the Church!

A note from your children, youth, and family ministry facilitator:

Ministry doesn't happen alone; it happens because of people who show up, serve, and care deeply about our kids and youth. From teachers and leaders to committee members, parents, and behind-the-scenes helpers, your time and love make a real difference.

Thank you for investing in the lives of our young people. You are helping shape their faith, their friendships, and their sense of belonging in the body of Christ.

If you're looking for a way to get involved, there's always room for more hands and hearts in this ministry. We'd love to serve alongside you!



Worship Volunteer Schedule

February 2026



Week	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22* Only one service today!
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga / Josef Perkins	Teresa Loga	Laurie Mauro / Teresa Loga*
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	None Needed
Bulletin 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Vince Mauro*
Bulletin 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Carol Wiemken	Volunteer Needed	Sarah Rockwell / Vince Mauro*
Camera 10:00	Sarah Rockwell	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Rick Yokum*
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Sue Brown	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Bev Fischer*
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Carol Wiemken	Carol Wiemken	Kari Swagler	None Needed
Greeter 8:00 East	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 8:00 West	R & L Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 East	Volunteer Needed	Chris Rilling	Rob Kohntopp	None Needed
Greeter 10:00 West	Volunteer Needed	Natalie Rilling	Jill Kohntopp	None Needed
Lector 8:00	Teresa Loga	Josef Perkins	Cheryl Fischer	Carol Wiemken*
Lector 10:00	Lisa Alleman	Tammy Myers	Greg Aubell	None Needed
Worship Asst 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Laurie Mauro*
Worship Asst 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Marlene LaChine	Don Schroeder	None Needed
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Vince Mauro*
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	None Needed

****Volunteer list as of 1/14/2026. 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, JEFF BUCHER, SHIRLEY COFER, VIRGINIA DILLON, TOM DRUSCHEL, JIM & SUE ENK, GREG GANELLI, JIM GEBHART, 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, BARB MERSING, DOROTHY PETRELL, ALBERT PRESTON, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, STACI, DICK RISON, JIM SCHWARTZ, PHYLLIS STURGEON
MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE, LANDON CHRISTY

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!

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 get in touch with Irene Rang at 269-832-7714



Children's Sermon

Children 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!!!!



Thank You
for sharing the spirit of Christmas

Dear Friend,

We've been blessed, for decades, by the generosity of our community during the Christmas season. Your kindness makes a real difference in the lives of those we serve, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

Whether you adopted a resident, shopped from a wish list, supported our Advent Day Hab pantry, or provided a Thrivent Action Card, your generosity helped make this season brighter for those we serve.

Your generosity brings warmth, joy and dignity to those we serve. Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping us make Christmas brighter for everyone.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Melissa Gregg
Director of Mission Advancement
mgregg@lutherhome.org
419-836-7741

*Michelle,
Thank you to everyone at
COC for their generosity!
A special thanks to Carol
for helping coordinate.
Melissa*

CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



Next Meeting Date

February 2 @ 10:30 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

February 4 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

February 5 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

February 9 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

February 10 @ 6:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

February 10 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

February 19 @ 6:00 p.m.



Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services

✚ Ash Wednesday, February 18, Noon & 7:00 p.m.

✚ Wednesday, February 25 - Wednesday, March 25

Soup Suppers 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18 – Wednesday, March 25

Join Us on Feb. 22 for Vicar Natalie's Farewell ❤️✚

It's hard to believe that Vicar Natalie's time with us is coming soon to its end—the past year and a half has gone by so quickly! As we announced at the annual meeting at the beginning of December, we are planning a special celebration and farewell event for Vicar Natalie on her last Sunday with us, which will be Feb. 22, 2026. Here are a few things to know and mark on your calendar now: First of all, we'll have a single service that Sunday, at 9:00 a.m. We're doing that for a couple of reasons: first of all, Vicar Natalie herself has written some special music she is dedicating to the congregation to be premiered that morning. The choir is working on learning it and sharing it with us in worship, and we want the whole congregation to be together to share those moments. We will host a breakfast after the service (egg casseroles, sausage, French toast fingers, fruit, cake) when the stress and focus of conducting the choir's special music can be over, we can just celebrate Vicar Natalie's time with us and her gifts for ministry as we wish her Godspeed and share our farewell messages and good wishes with her for that last weekend in February. **We have 3 sign-up sheets for this event - one for a headcount, needed by Feb 15** (adults and children), to know how much food we need, one for **help on Friday, Feb 20, 9:00 a.m.** to prepare some of the food, and **one for help cleaning up after breakfast.** We will collect a freewill offering to help offset the cost of the food. Save the date and sign up now to help us mark this important milestone!



Shelly Hayes from our Visitation Ministry Team shares, "Cindy Hartbarger got a new couch and chair, so I got to experience all the bells and whistles!"





Youth and Teens!





Announcements



"Peace Be Still" - Women's Retreat



Registration & Payment deadline is Sunday, February 8th!!!

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>



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.

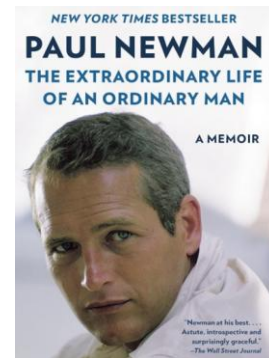


The Period Project - Feminine Hygiene Product collection Feb 1-22

Did you know...

- 1 in 3 low-income women report missing work & school due to lack of period supplies
- One out of four students has missed school due to a lack of period products.

Community of Christ Lutheran Church is participating in the Period Project to help raise awareness about period poverty and collect feminine hygiene products for Norf-End Neighbors in Toledo, OH. All new, sealed products of pads and tampons of varying sizes are being accepted for donation from February 1st to 22nd. Donations will also be accepted during the "Peace Be Still Women's Retreat." All donations can be dropped off in the box labeled "Period Project" in the Gathering Space. For those who wish to provide a monetary donation, all checks can be made out to Community of Christ Lutheran Church. Please indicate in the subject line "Period Project."



February Book Club:

***THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF AN ORDINARY MAN* by Paul Newman**

- ❖ **WHEN:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ **WHERE:** Community of Christ Adult Sunday School/Church Council Room
- ❖ **BOOK:** *The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man* by Paul Newman (edited by David Rosenthal)

What is your favorite Paul Newman movie? Take time to visit Paul on screen, then read this raw, honest memoir.

Based on interviews collected by Paul Newman and his friends, screenwriter Stewart Stein, this honest look into the life of actor, race car driver, and philanthropist Paul Newman reviews a man who was anything but ordinary.



Announcements



Council Gathers for Annual Vision Retreat and Installation

In what has become a new tradition here at Community of Christ, our newly formed Council will meet for a “Council Retreat” to get to know one another, build relationships, and to do some visioning and long-range planning for the year ahead. This February, we’ll be gathering at the church on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. In these coming weeks, we’ll also be having the installation of our council members, including those who are stepping up to serve as officers for 2026, in worship, as a way of asking God’s blessings on their work and helping the congregation to see those who are responding to God’s call into servant leadership. We would ask you to pray for our council members and their work over the course of this year: Council President Michael Abraham, Vice-President Matt Britsch, Secretary Kari Swagler, Treasurer Josef Perkins, and at-large members Fred Doering, Marlene LaChine, Chad Ackerman, Dean Nofzinger, Laurie Mauro, Kevin Steinman, Jeff Baden, Alicia Lipinski, and David Braun. And thanks to all our council members for serving!

Weekly Faith and Family Activities with Epiphany Bags and Faithful Doodling Booklets

We hope you have been enjoying weekly ideas to connect the BIG themes of our Sunday worship and Bible stories with our daily lives and family time, through the Epiphany season bags we gave out at the beginning of January. (Did you miss getting one for your family and kids? See Pastor Steve or Bryce, and we can get you materials for the remaining weeks in this season!) By this point, you might have chalked your door with a blessing that reminds us of the visiting Magi, put up a “star word” for the week somewhere in your room or house that glows throughout the year, and made a bracelet or necklace to remember that you are “beloved” and “blessed.” Maybe you’ve used our “praying in color” prompts or “faithful doodling” starters to explore and reflect on our Sunday Bible passages as well—and maybe you’ve caught the weekly videos we’ve shared with Pastor Steve and Bryce leading us through those activities. If you’ve found ANY of these things useful or enjoyable, whether on your own or with your family, let us know! We’re continuing to look for ways to create good resources to enliven family devotion times or connect the Scriptures with our week-in, week-out lives, so it’s helpful to know what you have found worthwhile in your house! Stay tuned for new ideas for the weeks ahead!

CoC Welcomes Tapestry Harp-and-Guitar Duo in Concert, March 15 at 3:00 p.m.

After having a great time in January with our Storytellers Coffeehouse event (and enjoying the tales of seven storytellers along with live music from Eric Dickey and Sarah Magoun), our Concert Committee is excited to welcome *Tapestry* to Community of Christ on the afternoon of Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m. Tapestry is comprised of harpist, Denise Grupp-Verbon and acoustic guitarist/multi-instrumentalist, Michael Grupp-Verbon and is based in Toledo Ohio. Performing and recording together for more than 11 years, Denise and Michael have created a truly distinctive sound, with their unique arranging and composing, and by the intertwining of different instruments. Playing many different styles of music from Celtic & Folk to Pop, Classical, and more, Tapestry is sure to have something for everyone. We’ll be blessed to have Denise Grupp-Verbon playing her harp on that Sunday morning in worship to give us a preview of the music later that afternoon, so plan to join us on both Sunday morning and afternoon that day! As always, we’ll invite your free will offerings to help support future concerts and the ministry and mission of both Community of Christ and mission partners beyond our doors.



Announcements



Altar Flower dedications for 2026 are now 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!



****We Welcome Volunteers of All Ages!**** There are many ways to serve at Community of Christ, including as a Door Greeter, Lector, Bulletin Distributor, Acolyte, Worship Assistant, Camera Operator for live streaming, or helping with Communion Set-up and Clean-up.

To volunteer, simply visit [www.commofchrist.org](<http://www.commofchrist.org>), click on *Volunteer for Worship*, select the ministry area you'd like to serve, then choose the date(s) you are available. After selecting your time slot, click on the "Sign Up" box, scroll to the bottom, and click "Submit and Sign Up." You will receive a confirmation email and a reminder shortly before your assigned date.

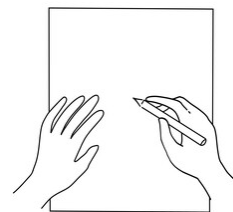
****Important:**** If you need to cancel, please arrange for another volunteer to cover your position, and update your cancellation in Sign-Up Genius so that others can see the availability.

Training is available at any time! Contact Laurie Mauro at (419) 877-5366. We look forward to serving with you!

****Stay tuned** for the upcoming date and additional details about a Volunteer workshop similar to the one we offered last year. There will be only one session, but we can send the guidance document to anyone interested.



Conversations and More and Drawing too!!!



Are you getting tired of being inside? Are you ready to get out for a couple of hours? Have some fun? Visit with friends, new and old? Play some euchre or Sequence? Share some snacks?

The "Conversation and More" sessions on **Friday, February 13th**, and **Tuesday, February 24th**, are the perfect answer! Come from **1:00-3:00 p.m.** and be ready for a good time!

AND, as a special treat, **IF YOU CAN'T DRAW BUT WOULD LIKE TO**, Chris Rilling will be on hand **February 13th** to guide and encourage.

(An additional Conversations and More AND follow-up drawing session will be held on Friday, February 27th, for all who can make it.)

Special Note: Going forward, if AW Schools are closed, *Conversations and More* will also be cancelled.



Announcements



First Quarter Thank You and Noisy Fund Offering for Genacross

As we begin a new year together, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to our church family for your continued generosity, faithfulness, and spirit of service. The first quarter is always a special time as we reflect on God's blessings and renew our commitment to sharing hope and compassion with others.

This quarter, our Thank You and Noisy Fund Offerings will be collected in support of Genacross, an organization that provides vital services and care to children, families, and individuals in need throughout our community.

The Noisy Fund Offering is a joyful and meaningful tradition, especially for our children, who delight in bringing their "noisy" change to worship. Every clang and clatter is a reminder that even the smallest gift can make a powerful difference when given with love.

We invite everyone to participate in this special offering. Your contributions will help Genacross continue its important work and extend God's love beyond our church walls in practical and life-changing ways.

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your willingness to serve. Together, we are making a difference—one joyful, noisy offering at a time.

Worship Volunteer Orientation and Update - Sat, Feb 28, 10-11 am

Whether you are new to worship volunteering or have been helping out, you are cordially invited to attend the Worship Volunteer Orientation and Update Workshop on Sat, Feb 28. Pastor Steve will be describing all roles and the hows and whys of what each role does. Did you ever wonder what order we process in and why? Or if you should say "Good Morning" before offering the readings, or why we carry the light to the back of the church at the end of service? Answers to all of your questions will be provided, along with answers to any of your other burning questions about worship roles. We look forward to seeing many faces at the Workshop!



Church Choir in February

You are invited to join us to sing in our next round of choir anthems! This past spring, Vicar Natalie composed a liturgy for Lent for one of her classes, which included a sending hymn dedicated to Community of Christ. Vicar Natalie will help to lead the choir in the month of February. We will sing an anthem on Sunday, on Vicar Natalie's last day with us, on

Sunday, February 22nd (worship will be one service that Sunday at 9 a.m.). Please sign up at the kiosk to let us know your availability to sing!



Schedule:

Wednesday, February 4th- rehearsal at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, February 11th- rehearsal at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, February 18th- rehearsal at 7 p.m.
Sunday, February 22nd- Sing at 9 a.m. worship (rehearsal at 8 a.m.)

Storytellers Coffeehouse-Turning Lemons into Lemonade!



A great time was had at our Storytellers Coffeehouse with a fantastic roster of storytellers, a selection of desserts, and great music from Eric Dickey and his spouse, Sarah Magoun!

Thanks to all who came out, who helped put this event together, and who helped us turn "lemons into lemonade"!





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 the 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 money 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.
Dec	\$21,881	\$12,563	\$9,318
YTD	\$185,939	\$155,520	\$30,420
2025 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Dec	\$53,313	\$33,753	\$19,560
YTD	\$443,522	\$435,306	\$8,216



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

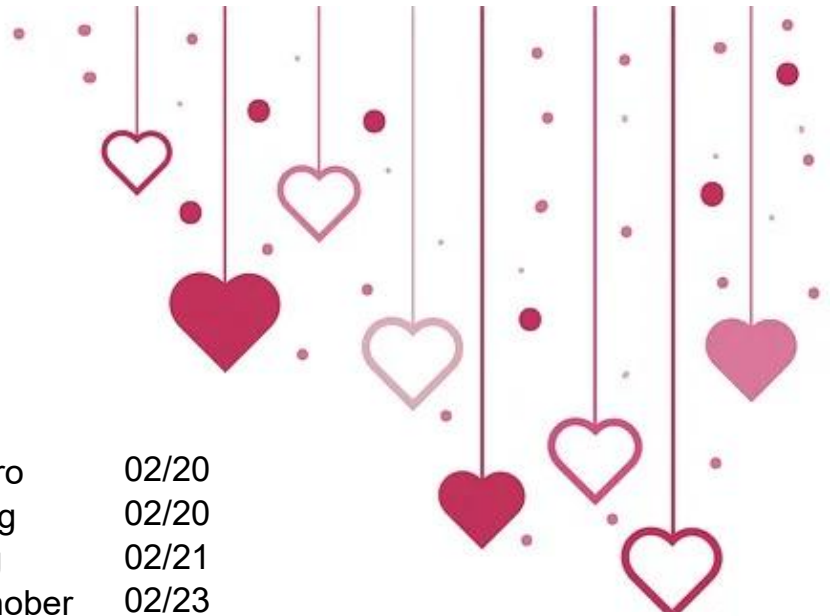
PLEASE REMEMBER ---we also offer an **electronic offering**, (**Simply Giving**) that will withdraw your offering automatically from your bank account. THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD'S WORK AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH!

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

*Happy
Birthday*



Jeff Baden	02/01	Vince Mauro	02/20
Nancy Shaw	02/01	Wayne King	02/20
Emily Pollock	02/04	Irene Rang	02/21
Judith Hoffman	02/05	Barbara Thober	02/23
Jerry Jones	02/07	Jonah Dick	02/27
James Gill	02/12	LuAnn Shuman	02/27
Jeff Bright	02/13	Emma Abraham	02/28
Sharon Miller	02/14	Mike Carman	02/28
Lou Ann Brettel	02/18	Paul Rasmusson	02/28
Laurie Mauro	02/20	Ronald Atkins	02/28
Michelle Reid	02/20		



Community of Christ Friends and Family



Please be aware that text, email phishing, and Facebook scams are circulating again. If you receive a message claiming to be from Pastor Steve or any of the staff, especially asking, "Can you do me a favor?" OR I'd appreciate speaking briefly by text, etc." —it's a scam. After receiving a response, the scammer often asks for money or gift cards.

****Do not respond**** to these messages and be sure to report or block the number or email address. Remember, Pastor Steve or any church staff member will never solicit requests for money or gifts via text, email, or Facebook. Please contact the church office directly if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe!



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

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