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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known

March 2026

Lent

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
March 2,
10:30 a.m.

Outreach
March 3, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Worship Services
Available at
www.commofchrist.org

Lenten Services
Wednesday,
March 4-March 25
7:00 p.m.

Soup Supper
Wednesday,
March 4-March 25
6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 5, 8:00 a.m.
and 10:00 a.m.

Drawn to Jesus—March (Lent) 2026

Recently, a colleague of mine was remarking that he didn't know what the right adjective should go with the season of Lent. Someone had apparently wished him a "Happy Lent," and he thought that didn't sound right, since in fairness, this is a season of the church's year that tends to focus on repentance, sorrow for sin, and the heavy truths of our own mortality and the death of Christ. So, sure, maybe the right word for these forty days we share that lead to the cross isn't "happy."

But I do think there is a side to this season that is very much about bringing us to life—and how we discover that we are made more fully alive because of being brought closer into Jesus' presence. Maybe the word for that isn't "happy," and maybe it's not exactly "joyful" always, either—but it is deeply **good**. The more closely we are drawn to Jesus, the more alive we become—even though our life's journey with Jesus also takes us through those seasons of grief, times of struggle, and to the foot of the cross. And maybe the gift of Lent—with its renewed focus on worship, prayer, time in Scripture, simplicity, and generosity—is that these weeks compel us to remove some of the distractions that keep us from that closeness to Jesus that brings us to life. Maybe it was never that God needed me to quit eating chocolate or drinking caffeine once a year to prove my devotion, but about asking, "What things in my life have I gotten used to having but are also becoming obstacles rather than helps to following Jesus?" Maybe the additional rhythm of midweek shared meals and worship (6:00 p.m. for dinner and 7:00 p.m. for evening prayer on Wednesdays!) wasn't about impressing God with an added layer of busyness to our schedules, but about setting aside the time to let God's Word speak to us amid all the other noise around us. And if that's right, then these forty days together that bring us to the cross and resurrection really have the capacity to be truly *life-giving* for us.

I hope you'll notice the same thing happens on Sundays this Lent as well. This year in the lectionary, we'll hear stories each week from John's Gospel that introduce us to encounters Jesus has with different people who are changed by being in his presence. Their stories, their struggles, and their needs are all different, but each of them finds themselves made more fully alive by being in the presence of Jesus. And in that sense, we can learn something for ourselves as we reflect on their stories. From Nicodemus, the religious leader who has his whole previous understanding of God shaken up and his perspective changed after a night-time conversation with Jesus, to a woman at a well who was transformed from skeptical outsider to bold witness for Jesus, and from the blind panhandler whose vision is given to him to Lazarus who is literally raised from the dead, Jesus is always bringing people more fully to life in ways that they didn't even realize they needed. As we meet them again this Lent, we'll find ourselves made more alive, too. That's what I want to invite you to share this season. For all the necessarily solemnity and reflection of Lent, this is also a time to let Jesus draw us closer to him, and in the process to make us more alive, even on the way to the cross. I hope you'll join us on Sundays and Wednesdays for worship or be drawn to greater engagement

From Pastor Steve Continued

with the Scriptures either in your devotional life or in Sunday morning Adult Forum or weekday Bible study times, or in ways you serve people around you, who turn out to be the presence of Christ for you as well.

So, my wish for you this season is not, after all, for you to have a “happy” Lent—I think my colleague was right to feel squirmy about that particular description. But I do hope and pray that this Lent brings you closer to Jesus, and that—because of who Jesus is—you find yourself more fully alive because of that. Indeed, may the living God bring us all more fully to life in Christ.

Sharing the journey with you gratefully,
Pastor Steve

From Vicar Natalie

Dear friends in Christ,

In the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, we are reminded that there is a time for every season. These past 18 months in the season of Internship have been a blessing in my life, and now that season has come to an end. I am overcome by the amount of learning and love that has happened in this place in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your hospitality and for saying yes to having me as your vicar. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you in this brief moment in history in the vast call of discipleship. Thank you also to the choir, musicians, worship leaders, Pastor Steve, Michelle, Eric, Bryce, and the Lay Internship Committee for all that was put together for my final Sunday. I may be the only intern to say that she had fireworks at her farewell service! My heart is full from your love and support, and the cards and gifts that have been given to me at my leaving. What a blessing that I give thanks to God for and will forever treasure and ponder in my heart. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am writing this note to you at the time of packing up my office, and I am pondering a final song from Ralph Vaughan Williams *Songs of Travel* (poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson) called "I have trod the upward and the downward slope." The final line in the cycle states, "And I have lived and loved, and closed the door." That is the ending we find ourselves now, dear friends in Christ. We have lived together in community, broken bread and drank the wine, prayed, lifted songs, worshipped, cried and laughed, pondered scripture, and been in awe and wonder of how the Holy Spirit works in our lives - all of this wrapped in the love of Jesus Christ. It doesn't make the leaving easy, but speaking for myself, this time has shaped me in many ways in my pastoral journey, and I give thanks that I can look back on it with a heart full of joy. May God's blessings be upon you all and in the mission of Community of Christ Lutheran to make Jesus known.

Shalom and Blessings,
Vicar Natalie

Loving Our Vicar Natalie

We will MISS YOU!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Adult Forum Explores Luther's Small Catechism, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Beginning on March 1, our Adult Forum is inviting EVERYBODY to catechism! We're inviting all who would like to join us to explore the essentials of the faith as summarized in Martin Luther's Small Catechism. We'll explore the meaning in our lives of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Christian Life, using the insights of Luther's own "handbook for the faith" called the Small Catechism. Whether you first learned these things long ago in a confirmation class or you have never had a chance to study the catechism, this is a great chance to explore some of the Big Ideas of the Christian faith and get at why it all matters, and what it all means. Join us between services starting this March in the Bible study/council room!

Thursday Bible Study Opens Up the Book of Acts

We have just begun a new series in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study, as we take a 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. Join us weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Bible Study/Council Room as we work through the book of Acts and let it spark our own ways of living out our faith and sharing the good news of Jesus in the world around us.

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

Wednesday Lenten Dinners at 6:00 p.m. and Midweek Worship at 7:00 p.m.

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, as we did on Ash Wednesday, at 6:00 pm. 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. In March, each of our Wednesday 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. all throughout Lent!

Youth and Teens!

Great to have Bishop Daniel Beaudoin join us for confirmation class, teaching us about scripture memorization as a spiritual practice and introducing us to King David and Solomon!

Faith

Youth Growing in God's Word & Friendship

GLO-over Lock-in

On February 15–16, twenty-one youth from Community of Christ, Providence, and other communities gathered for our GLO-OVER Lock-In, graciously hosted by Providence Lutheran Church. What began as an afternoon of shared lunch and games became a meaningful time of worship, service, and connection.

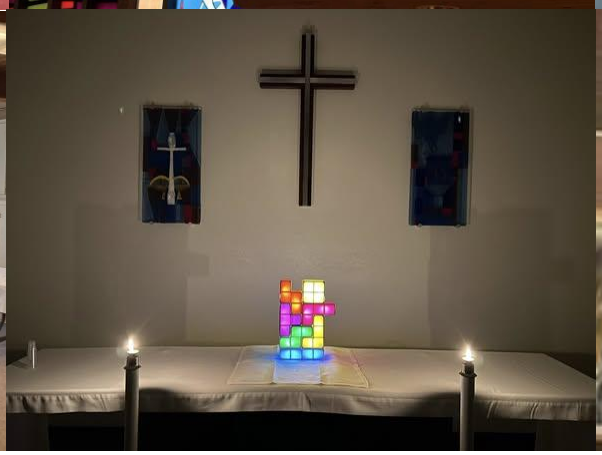
Centered on Jesus' words, "You are the light of the world," we explored passages from John and Matthew that remind us Christ's light is not only something we receive, but something we carry. Through worship, song, reflection, and games, youth were invited to consider the light within them and how they let it shine.

We also lived that message through service by assembling 50 encouragement bags containing painted lighthouse keepsakes, handwritten notes, and candy. Small reminders of hope meant to share Christ's light with the people who come through Providence's food pantry.

As evening fell, the Family Life Center (gym) was transformed into a glowing space filled with laughter. Glow-in-the-dark games, a scripture scavenger hunt, late-night worship, and plenty of conversation continued into the wee hours of the morning. By 6:00 a.m., students left tired but joyful, strengthened in faith and deepened in relationship.

We are grateful to Providence Lutheran for their hospitality, to the many volunteers who stayed, served, prepared food, decorated, and prayed, and to the families who entrusted us with their youth. Your support makes moments like this possible.

The glow decorations have been taken down, but the light continues to shine.



Worship Volunteer Schedule
March 2026

Week	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 15	Mar 22	Mar 29
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Teresa Loaga	Josef Perkins / Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Laurie Mauro / Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Rick Metcalf	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 10:00	Carol Wiemken	Kari Swagler	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Dean Nofzinger
Camera 10:00	Neil Raymond	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Volunteer Needed	Rick Yokum
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Susan Raymond	Jill Kohntopp	Carol Wiemken	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 8:00 East	Rick Metcalf	Marilyn Pratt	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Linda Metcalf
Greeter 8:00 West	Rick and L Metcalf	Richard Pratt	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Rick Metcalf
Greeter 10:00 East	Volunteer Needed	Dean Nofzinger	Volunteer Needed	Rob Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Greeter 10:00 West	Volunteer needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Lector 8:00	Josef Perkins	Volunteer needed	Teresa Loga	Josef Perkins	Teresa Loga
Lector 10:00	Cindy Ray	Marsha Cochran	Carol Wiemken	Marlene LaChine	Dana Schmidt
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Laurie Mauro	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 10:00	Dean Nofzinger	Volunteer Needed	Don Schroeder	Marlene LaChine	Kara Yokum
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 2/16/2026. 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

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:

JEFF BUCHER, VIRGINIA DILLON, TOM DRUSCHEL, JIM & SUE ENK, GREG GANELLI, JIM GEBHART, LARRY GEER, SALLY GOETZ, PAULA GRUHLER, 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, JIM SCHWARTZ, PHYLLIS STURGEON

MILITARY: JAY RASMUSSON, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE, LANDON CHRISTY, DREW TROTTER

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

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!!!!

Time to Order Easter Lilies!

Flowers may be dedicated to the *memory* of or in *honor* of loved ones.

Please place your envelope in the offering plate **no later than Sunday, March 22.**

Thank you for helping make our Easter celebration beautiful!

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

CoC Ministry Dates to Remember

VISITATION MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date
March 2 @ 10:30 a.m.

Outreach

Next Meeting Date
March 3 @ 7:00 p.m.

SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date
March 4 @ 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date
March 5 @ 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Next Meeting Date
March 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date
March 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date
March 10 @ 7:00 p.m.

† Lenten Services 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4 -
Wednesday, March 25

Soup Suppers 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4 -
Wednesday, March 25

On Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: What Are We Called TO?

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 two other colleagues in ministry already serving as pastors: Sarah Aasheim, an ELCA pastor serving in eastern Pennsylvania, and Methodist colleague Erica Wellner, who is serving in central Pennsylvania. And even though her time with us as an intern and vicar is complete, we are excited to share that Natalie Downs will be continuing presently on the podcast as a voice around the conversation, too! So even though we won't see her on Sunday mornings any longer, we can still hear her voice in the mix as we explore topics of all sorts with each week's episode. 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 Lent, our series explores the question, "What are we called *to*?" as disciples. After our previous series looked at how God calls outsiders throughout the Bible, we're now looking at the kind of life we are called into as disciples, and we'll look at examples from the Bible of what that might look like. We'll explore how Abraham and Sarah teach us about the practice of hospitality and welcome for the stranger. We'll look at Moses as an example of bravely speaking up to set other people free. We'll consider the message of prophets like Micah who call us to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God," and more, so 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!

Lent

Announcements

Break out the Turtle-Wax and your craft supplies; the Outreach Committee is organizing the inaugural Community of Christ Car & Craft Fest on Saturday, August 15th, from 12-4 p.m. Do you have a sweet ride you love showing off? We'd LOVE for you to show it off to the community here in our parking lot. Crafters – we're looking for YOU as well! Do you knit or crochet beautiful blankets or articles of clothing? Create floral arrangements displaying God's beauty? Maybe you paint, do woodworking, make jewelry, or decorate tumblers? We'd love for you to set up shop at our craft fair in Fellowship Hall that afternoon. You may be asking yourself, "How can I get involved in this fun experience?" The answer is simple –reach out to a member of the Outreach Committee so we can get you on our participation list to ensure we have enough space allocated both inside & out. Additional details on all of the events of that day will follow in the coming months. Thank you – The Outreach Committee – Cammie Abraham, Rose Ackerman, Robin Fritz, Shelly Hays, Tammy & Greg Myers, Cindy Smigelski, Kari Swagler, and Pastor Steve.

The 2026 Ladies Lunch will kick off on **March 27th**!

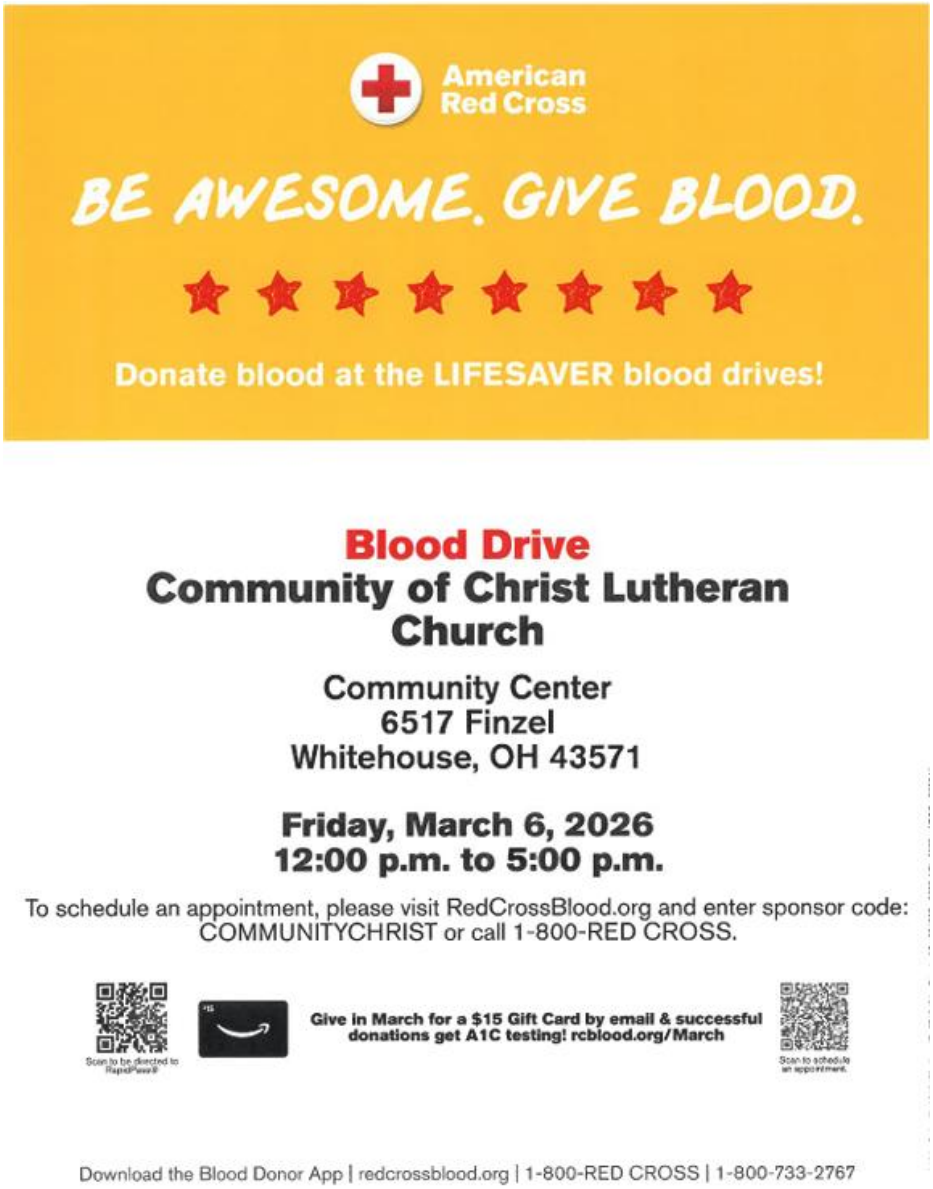
We'll meet at 11:30 a.m. at Sunset Bistro, 1220 W. Wooster St., Bowling Green, OH 43402. Please be sure to sign up at the kiosk to make reservations. Questions? Contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

Choir Update:

The choir will take a short break and resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, March 8**. We look forward to singing together again soon!

Announcements

LENT



On Ash Wednesday as we began this year's Lenten season, our focus within our "Found Family" theme for 2026 is "Drawn to Jesus," as we look at what happens in our lives when we are pulled closer in our walk with Christ. So, throughout Lent you can get one of these new buttons in one of two designs: **"FOUND" and "drawn to Jesus"** for free! You will find them in the basket on the table in the gathering space.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Assignment of Liaisons for 2026, commencing after the conclusion of the January council meeting.

- Alicia Lipinski – Concert
- Kari Swagler– Education and Youth
- Chad Ackerman – Fellowship
- Jeff Baden- Finance
- David Braun– Outreach
- Matt Britsch- Property
- Kevin Steinman – Risk Management
- Becky King/Kathryn Whitacre – Social Action
- Michael Abraham- Stewardship
- Fred Doering - Toolbox
- Marlene LaChine – Visitation Ministry
- Laurie Mauro – Worship and Music & Prairie Meadow

Announcements

March 15, 2026
Denise Grupp Verbon will provide special music for the 10:00 service with a concert at 3:00
Free will offering

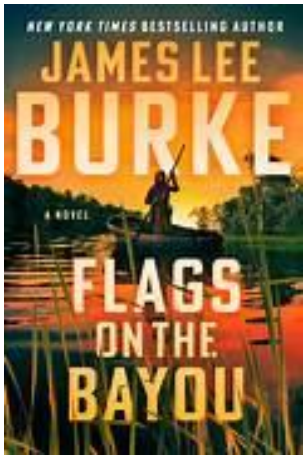
TAPESTRY, featuring Harpist, Denise Grupp-Verbon and Acoustic Guitarist & Multi-Instrumentalist, Michael Grupp-Verbon, is based in Toledo, Ohio. Performing and recording together for over 20 years, Denise and Michael have created a truly distinctive sound featuring their unique arranging & composing. TAPESTRY has released 3 CDs, featuring Pop, Celtic, Folk, and Original music. In addition, they have also published numerous arrangements and instructional books for solo harp. They perform for scores of concerts, weddings, corporate, and private events annually. Michael is also a professional videographer and photographer. He specializes in video documentaries and landscape and wildlife photography. Denise is the Internship Manager for the School of Liberal Arts at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio. Denise and Mike are the founders of The Harp Gathering, now celebrating its 16th year.

Saturday, March 28, 2026
Concert at 4:00
Tickets are required

MASTERWORKS CHORALE is a mixed voice ensemble comprised of singers from the Toledo area. It strives to skillfully and professionally perform a diverse variety of choral literature and provide its audiences and members with an enriching and fulfilling musical experience.

Founded in the fall of 1972 by Benjamin Locke and his mother, Rose Mary Locke, the Chorale has premiered several compositions by local and world-renowned composers and sponsors annual high school internships and choral workshops.

Masterworks Chorale is overseen by Tim Cloeter, a conductor and singer with more than twenty years of experience in higher education, teaching conducting, choral literature, diction, music theory, and aural skills, and leading choirs that have consistently been invited to perform at music conferences and on concert series. Cloeter has led the Chorale since 2013, and he also serves as director of music at Perrysburg First United Methodist Church.



March Book Club:
FLAGS ON THE BAYOU by James Lee Burke
WHEN: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
WHERE: Community of Christ Adult Sunday School/Church Council Room
BOOK: *Flags on the Bayou by James Lee Burke*

The year is 1863, New Orleans is held by the Union Army. An enslaved woman is accused of murder, goes on the run from local constables and slave catchers. A mystery, a love story, and a thriller set against the bayous of Louisiana. Burke is always a joy to read, and this is no exception.

Announcements

Toledo School for the Arts Vocal Music Concert and Silent Auction—April 26 at 3:00 p.m.

The Concert Committee is excited to announce that later this spring, we'll be hosting a concert featuring some of Toledo's top jazz vocalists, including Ramona Collins, Kim Buehler, and Lori Lefevre, and vocal students from Toledo School for the Arts, coming up on April 26 at 3:00 p.m. We're also inviting the congregation to help us in putting on a silent auction of prizes and items, from which proceeds will be split between Community of Christ's ministries beyond our doors and TSA's "Songs for our Sister" Vocal Jazz Scholarship Fund to help other students develop their talent. The concert will be free with the invitation to give to a free-will offering, but we would LOVE your help with donating prizes for our silent auction. Would you be willing to make a basket of themed prizes? Do you have a business that could donate a prize, or do you make some sort of artistic and crafty creations? Coming this March, we'll have a sign-up for those who can contribute prizes (see the kiosk), and we'll have a fantastic afternoon of music, prizes, and more on April 26!

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.

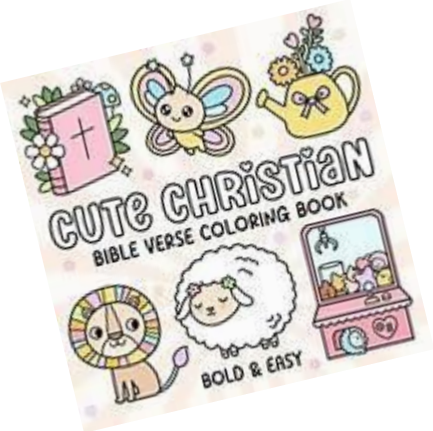
Announcements

Social Action Collection for Genacross Youth Homes

This March and April, the Social Action Committee is inviting the whole congregation to join in a collection of items needed for the group youth homes for at-risk children and youth in our area that are managed by Genacross Lutheran Services in northwestern Ohio. We invite you to bring any of these items (new) to the display in the Gathering Space, whether on Sundays or throughout the week, so that we can pass them along to kids who can use them this spring:

- Markers, crayons, colored pencils (any sizes and amounts)
- Coloring books and activity books (especially faith-themed are welcome)
- Basketballs, footballs, frisbees

If you can bring any of these items in March or April, you can help make a difference in the lives of kids who could really use some signs of love and care at this time in their lives. Help us to show the love of Christ to these young people as we help the ministries of Genacross this March and April!



Visitation Ministry Offers Workshop on Living Wills and Healthcare Power of Attorney

On the morning of Saturday, March 21, the Visitation Ministry will be hosting a workshop to learn more about *advance directives*—documents that help make choices about healthcare wishes in end-of-life situations or appoint other people to make choices on our behalf if we are unable. We'll be welcoming Jonathan Balcerzak as a guest presenter, who can introduce us to these documents, why one might choose to have one, and how to sort through these hefty topics in ways that are healthy and good. Join us for this workshop from 9:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, and sign up at the kiosk to let us know you are planning on coming!

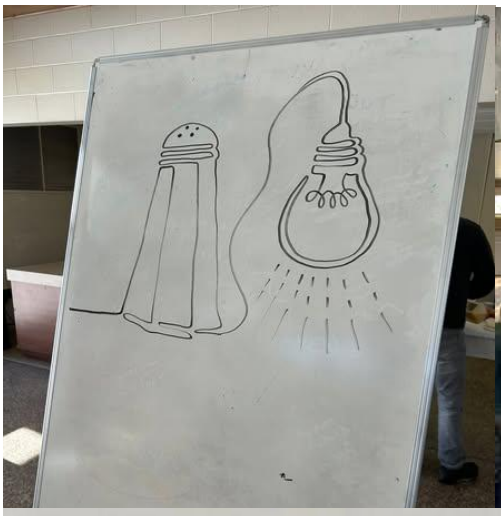
Announcements

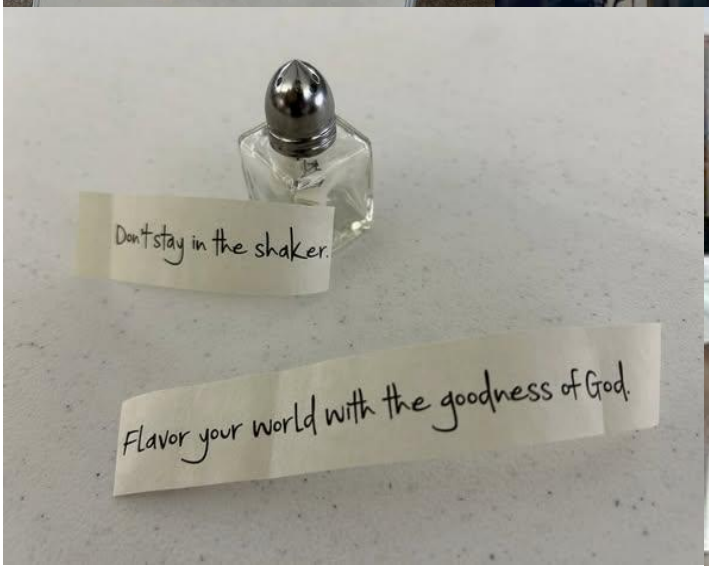
Dish Pickup Reminder 🍽️ If you have any dishes or serving items that you've used for meals at the church, please remember to pick them up by **March 31**. Any items remaining after that date will be donated to **Goodwill**. Thank you for helping us keep our kitchen organized and for sharing your generosity with others!

Recycling Update: As many of you know, aluminum cans have been collected and scrapped to help support our building loan. At this time, the church will no longer be accepting cans for recycling. If someone would like to take over this effort, please contact the church office. Thank you for your support!

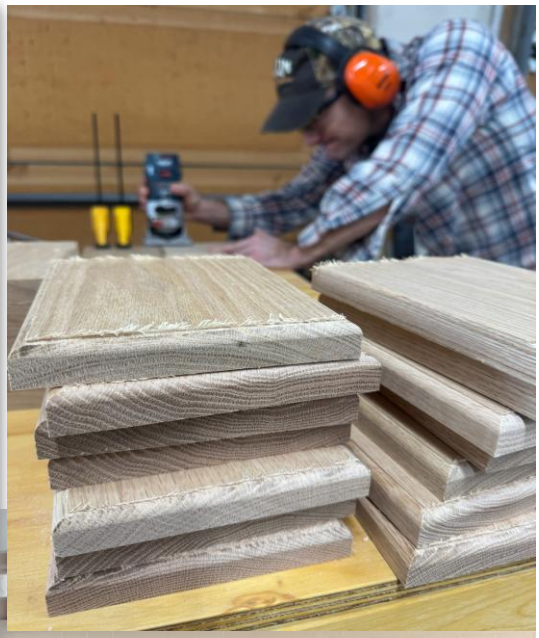
Growing in God's Word & Fellowship

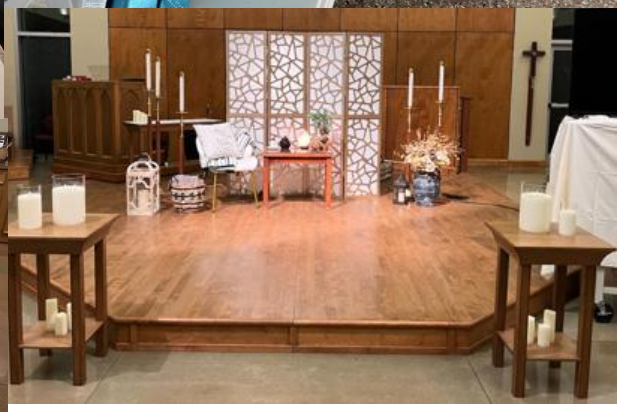
We had a great gathering for our Council Retreat to set some goals, revisit our values and best practices, and envision the year ahead! Thanks, Council members and staff!





Peace Be Still Women's Retreat 2026





Lent

Peace Be Still Women's Retreat 2026

Loving Our Members & Neighbors

We had a great gathering of some of our young adults and families last night with conversations over dinner about what might come next. Stay tuned for more about this budding group!

Great to kick off our Lenten dinners before midweek services with our first meal tonight before the evening Ash Wednesday service. Thanks to Outreach folks for hosting tonight and to all who brought food, shared dinner, and helped with set up or clean up!

The Waterville Township Police Department would like to thank the Community of Christ Lutheran Church for the breakfast they provided our officers on Tuesday. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve in a community with so many thoughtful and caring citizens. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks, Kevin

Lent

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.

Tithe.ly

2026 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Jan	$12,569	$14,563	($1,994)
YTD	$12,569	$14,563	($1,994)

2026 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Jan	$35,268	$46,670	($11,403)
YTD	$35,268	$46,670	($11,403)

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

Cathy Happel	03/01	Alison Fritz	03/07	Jacob Gehring	03/21
Christine McKee	03/01	Cammie Abraham	03/09	Jim Schwartz	03/22
Rebecca Jaessing	03/02	EzRhianna Bond	03/09	David Dick	03/23
Alexander Raymond	03/02	Dana Schmidt	03/10	Larry Hudson	03/24
Carol Stiles	03/03	Thomas Lytle	03/11	Ken Hayes	03/24
Barbara Mersing	03/04	Deborah Lytle	03/12	Larry Papenfuss	03/26
Josh Swagler	03/04	Douglas Pontsler	03/16	Avery Jones	03/27
Deanna Cedargren	03/05	Kim Jones	03/18	Neil Raymond	03/29
Bob Smigelski	03/05	Andrew Carman	03/18	Donald Sutter	03/30
Susan Olman	03/05	Nathan Steinman	03/18	Timothy Tuohy	03/30
Zach Jones	03/05	Lisa Pitchford	03/20	Brian Lowell	03/31
Dave Alleman	03/06	Cathy Kronmann	03/21	Rob Kohntopp	03/31

To my Community of Christ family,

I am incredibly thankful for all your cards, texts, emails, phone calls, as well as your contributions to our Toolbox Ministry in memory of Matthew. Your support through laughter and tears at this more-than-overwhelming time has really held me together.

You are a blessing.

Pam Davis

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

Like us on Facebook
Community of Christ Lutheran Church

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