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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Making Jesus Known*



June 2026

**A Community of Quarks (Or, “We Don’t Do This Alone”)—June 2026**

I was recently reading an article to brush up on my rudimentary knowledge of particle physics (you know, as one does), and I was reminded of a curious detail about **quarks** that I had forgotten.

Scientists who know such things will tell you that inside every atom are not only the protons, neutrons, and electrons, which you might have learned about in middle school science class, but in fact each of those particles is believed to be made up of even tinier things called *quarks*. Quarks come in what they call “flavors” (don’t you love it when science sounds like the ice cream counter?) with names like *up*, *down*, *top*, *bottom*, *strange*, and *charm*, which makes them sound much more interesting than just numbering them 1 through 6, I suppose. But even more interesting to me is the current understanding that even though these quarks are individual *things*, **they are never found alone**. Apparently, you can talk about a single quark in a hypothetical sense, but you never find lone quarks by themselves. They are always bound up with other quarks, held together by something called the “strong nuclear force” that holds them together with one another. It turns out that if you’re a quark in this universe, you can’t do it alone. You’ve got to be connected to other quarks, just for your very existence. I don’t quite understand how that works or how scientists know these things, but the whole notion just boggles my mind.

And yet at the same time, it sounds very much like the way we live the Christian life, which is always *together*. Maybe like quarks, you can talk about individual Christians in an abstract, hypothetical sense, but we were never meant to live this life alone. We are never left to our own devices as Jesus’ followers, both because the Spirit continues to guide us and Christ continues to dwell among us, but also because we are given each other. Like quarks that are always found in the company of other quarks, we live this life as disciples together. We worship, pray, and learn together. We serve, visit, and witness together. We try out new things like spiritual practices, and we find comfort in familiar routines like singing favorite hymns and sharing story hour together. We do it together because that’s one of God’s gifts to us—each other.

I wonder—have you ever thought of it that way? That you are one of God’s gifts to the other people around you in our congregation and our community? And that the other people around us, from the family who sits in the row ahead of you on Sunday to the person who asked for our prayers last week to the faces across the table at Bible study, these are God’s gifts to you as well? I invite you this June to make the most of being quarks together—of being bound in the company of other disciples, as together we make Jesus known.

Sharing the journey with you gratefully,  
 Pastor Steve

**Worship Hours**  
**Sunday,**  
**May 3, 10, & 17**  
**8 a.m. & 10 a.m.**

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

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

**Outreach**  
 June 2, 7:00 p.m.

**Social Action**  
 June 3, 10:00 a.m.

**Worship & Music**  
 June 4, 10:00 a.m.

**Visitation Ministry**  
 June 8, 10:30 a.m.

**Concert Committee**  
 June 9, 6:00 p.m.

**Council Meeting**  
 June 9, 7:00 p.m.

**Christian Ed.**  
 June 8, 6:30 p.m.

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

**Summer**  
**Worship Hours**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**May 24 -**  
**September 13**

*Happy*  
*Father’s*  
*Day!*



# GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

## On Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: A Faith of Both Testaments

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 also 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 three other colleagues in ministry: Sarah Aasheim, an ELCA pastor serving in eastern Pennsylvania, Methodist colleague Erica Wellner, who is serving in central Pennsylvania, and former intern and newly-minted seminary grad **Natalie Downs**! 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 summer, our latest series is called “A Faith of Both Testaments,” and will explore questions about how our faith as Christians holds together both the Hebrew Scriptures (sometimes called the Old Testament) and the Christian New Testament. We’ll look at questions like, “Is God really mean in the Old Testament and then nice in the New Testament?” or “How did the ancient people of Israel think about life after death?” We’ll explore how we as followers of Jesus read the Hebrew Scriptures both similarly and differently from our Jewish neighbors, and how we need the voices of other traditions to keep us honest with these texts. 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!



## Thursday Bible Study Opens Up the Book of Acts

Join us for our current 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!

# The Shaping of Our Hearts

## A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices

You are invited to a weekly series of spiritual practices on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45 pm at Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse, Ohio, as we explore both ancient and innovative ways of connecting with God.

**June 10**

### The Art of New Creation

A central theme of the Christian story is God's way of taking what is unlikely, broken, rejected, or unexpected and bringing something new out of it. Through a set of imaginative practices, we'll try our hands at finding meaning, beauty, and surprise from unexpected places and things that might seem damaged or marred at first.



**June 17**

### Breath Prayer & Labyrinth.

Using simple words and phrases which can be paired with the natural rhythm of inhaling and exhaling, breath prayer can become a helpful tool for finding peace, slowing down, and getting re-centered. In this session, we'll also invite participants to walk and pray with the floor labyrinth. Special presenter Deacon Sherry Krieger.



**June 24**

### Reverse Visio Divina

Instead of taking a completed painting, photograph, or work of art as the starting point for contemplation, *reverse Visio Divina* invites us to spot places and scenes of beauty around us, in places like the churchyard and our natural surroundings. In an age when nearly everyone is carrying a camera or phones, we have the tools for sighting God's goodness and grace in the world around us all the time. Special presenter Pastor Sarah Schaaf.



**July 1**

### The Spirituality of Archery

The Bible frequently uses the language of staying focused on a goal, or of missing the mark, as a metaphor for our spiritual growth and centering on Christ. So, we'll explore how the imagery of aiming at a target might open up our life of discipleship with an actual introduction to archery. Special presenter Bryce Hinegardner.



**July 8**

### Tangible Prayer

Prayer can take the form of the act of making an object as a gift for another person, while praying for the recipient as it is being made. In our own congregation, our ministries of prayer shawls, prayer squares, and crosses allow people to create these prayerful gifts. Special presenters Irene Rang and Sandi Whaley

# The Shaping of Our Hearts

## A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices



**July 15**

### **The Spirituality of the Prairie Meadow**

Biblical voices like the psalmists and prophets often take cues about God from their experience in the created world. In this session, we'll explore, pray, and contemplate in our own church, Prairie Meadow.

*Special presenter Laurie Mauro*

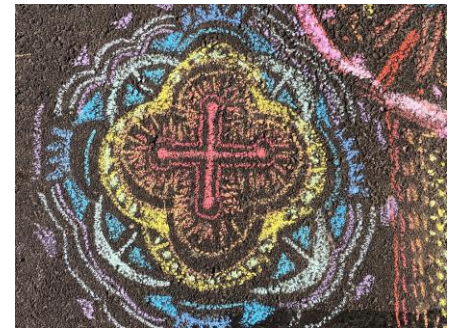


**July 22**

### **The Daily Examen**

The Prayer of the Examen is a simple spiritual practice of reflection and prayer that helps us become more aware of God's presence in our daily lives.

*Special presenter Bishop  
Daniel Beaudoin*



**July 29**

### **The Spirituality of the Ephemeral**

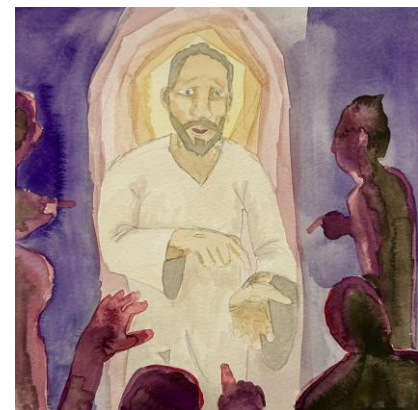
Voices like Ecclesiastes teach us not to count on permanency in our actions, but to find meaning in what we do in the present moment. We'll create several kinds of visual arts displays that embrace their temporary nature, to help us discover meaning and purpose in work even when we know it will not last forever.



**August 5**

### **Taize Style Music and Prayer**

The style of worship developed at the community of Taize, France, has become well-known around the world as a contemplative and ecumenical form of song and prayer. With simple, easy-to-learn refrains sung with repetition and variety of instrumentation, Taize-style song invites us to mindful, unhurried, and reflective time with God.



**August 12**

### **Contemplative Painting and Visio Divina**

Using visual arts to enter into a deeper reflection on a biblical story is one of the gifts of Visio Divina. Reprising two practices we explored in 2025, we'll have the opportunity both to reflect on already-created images for our contemplation and to create new works of art on our own as a means of engaging with the Scriptures.



# Kids, Youth, and Teens!



## SUMMER Storytime

### Sneak Preview: Summer Reading Club Returns Beginning June 10!

We had a blast last summer welcoming kids and families every week to a short time for sharing stories, singing songs, and opening the Mystery Bag with story hour times, and it was great to offer a bookshelf of faith-informed books for them to check out and read on their own through the summer, too. So, this summer, we are bringing back our weekly Summer Reading Club and Lending Library, and we want to invite YOU to save the dates to join us!

Beginning on June 10 and running on Wednesdays this summer through August 12, we'll be welcoming kids of all ages to join us from 9:30-10:00 a.m. every week for a time of stories, songs, fun, and friends. Bring a friend or neighbor, and we'll gather in the church library (the long classroom where our youngest Sunday School class meets on Sunday mornings).

But wait, there's more! You will also be able to find our bookshelf in the Gathering Space all summer, with a new collection of kid-friends' books as well as some of our favorites from last year, that you can borrow, read, and return. We're inviting you to read ten books over the course of the summer for a special prize at the end of the summer!

And if you are an adult who might be free on a Wednesday morning this summer and you would like to volunteer to be a guest reader of one of our stories, please reach out to Pastor Steve or Bryce and let us know—we'd be glad to welcome you to be a special guest on one or more of our Wednesday story times! See you this summer around a good book!

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### Save the Date!

On June 20, from 9:00–11:30 a.m., youth from the Anthony Wayne area will gather in our parking lot for a car wash fundraiser.

Youth are invited to come help out and stay afterward for pizza and fellowship. If you have a car, we'd love for you to stop by and have it cleaned while supporting our youth!

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Thank you to the Youth Group for coming out for an evening fellowship, fun, and crafting flowers for moms on Mother's Day!!





# Kids, Youth, and Teens!



Rooted (our shared youth group) explored the ascension of Jesus and the mission left to the disciples in Acts 1. Together, we learned about carrying the message of Christ from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!

We even put the lesson into action with a fun activity: passing a water balloon “message” from one person to another, all the way to the “ends of the earth” (a bucket). It was a great reminder that we are all called to share Christ’s message with the world!



Thanks to all who joined us for our Pentecost procession with streamers and bubbles in worship on Pentecost Sunday! Like a bubble filled with breath and then moving out into the world, we are filled with the Spirit and sent into the world with God’s love!





# Worship Volunteer Schedule



## June 2026

### Summer Worship Hour 9:00 a.m.

Week	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Joseph Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
<b>Bulletin</b>	Connie Hudson	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler
<b>Camera</b>	Sarah Rockwell	Nel Raymond	Rick Yokum	Kevin Swagler
<b>Communion Prep/Clean</b>	Jill Kohntopps	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler
<b>Greeter East</b>	Jill Kohntopp	Marilyn Pratt	Volunteer Needed	Chris Rilling
<b>Greeter West</b>	Rob Kohntopp	Richard Pratt	Volunteer Needed	Natalie Rilling
<b>Lector</b>	Joseph Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Cheryl Fischer	Greg Aubell
<b>Worship Asst</b>	Laurie Mauro	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed	Don Schroeder
<b>Vergger</b>	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

**\*\*Volunteer list as of 5/15/2026. 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](http://www.commofchrist.org) under "Worship and Bulletins" and then the appropriate bulletin date.

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

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

**The Vergger** 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:**

PAUL AYRES, LARRY BATTLES, JEFF BUCHER, CAROL BORKOWSKI, ERIC DICKEY, VIRGINIA DILLON, TOM DRUSCHEL, TODD DUTCHED, JIM & SUE ENK, CHERYL FISCHER, GREG GANELLI, LARRY GEER, PAULA GRUHLER, PASTOR RON HEINZ, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, MATT JURRUS, TRISTAN KIMMEY, GINNY KRUEGER, PAUL LADD, CAROL MASON, MILES MCGINNIS, JUDY MOCK, ALBERT PRESTON, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, DICK RISON, PHYLLIS STURGEON, KATHRYN WHITACRE

**MILITARY:** JAY RASMUSSEN, NOAH PITZEN, AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, JAKE COPE, LANDON CHRISTY, DREW TROTTER, DAVID ATKINSON, RYAN DUNN

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!!!!



IN LOVING   
Memory

We hold the family of Tom Jennings in our prayers, asking our Lord to surround them with peace and comfort in the days ahead.

### Prayer Shawls

If you are interested in making a prayer shawl or know of someone who would be blessed by receiving a prayer shawl, please get in touch with Irene Rang at 269-832-7714



# CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



Outreach

**Next Meeting Date**  
June 2 @ 7:00 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
June 3 @ 10:00 a.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
June 4 @ 10:00 a.m.



VISITATION MINISTRY

**Next Meeting Date**  
June 8 @ 10:30 a.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
June 9 @ 7:00 p.m.



**Next Meeting Date**  
June 15 @ 6:30 p.m.



**Summer Worship Hours**  
begin Sunday, May 24 @  
9:00 a.m.

**Church Office Hours**  
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
(Monday through Friday)

**Please note.....**  
Hours may vary with vacations.  
Please call ahead ☺

## Celebrating with our 2026 Confirmands!

Earlier in May, we celebrated with four young people in our congregation who affirmed their baptism and were confirmed in the faith! Congratulations to Evan Ackerman, Anna Bond, Jillian Dewitz, and Jett Jenkins!





# Announcements



## What Is MealTrain and Why Do We Use It?

When someone in our church family at Community of Christ is facing a difficult season — welcoming a baby, recovering from surgery, grieving a loss, or dealing with illness — one meaningful way we can show love and support is by providing a meal.

To help organize this ministry of care, we use [MealTrain](#), an online scheduling tool that allows church members to sign up for meal deliveries on dates that work for them. MealTrain helps prevent confusion, keeps schedules organized, and allows us to include important details such as dietary needs, delivery times, and other requests.

As followers of Christ, we are called to care for one another and “carry each other’s burdens.” A simple meal can provide comfort, encouragement, and a reminder that no one walks alone.

When a MealTrain is created, links may be shared through email, bulletins, or church announcements. Whether you prepare a homemade dish, provide takeout, or give a gift card, every act of kindness makes a difference.

In the coming months, I will be sharing simple menu ideas to help inspire meal donations. If you have questions about MealTrain, please contact Michelle in the office or reach out to Cinda Pontsler by text at 419-356-9290 or email at [cinda.pontsler@gmail.com](mailto:cinda.pontsler@gmail.com).



**Are you a Thrivent member?** If so, did you know you can help support our various committees and their projects by applying for a Thrivent Action Grant?

Throughout the year, our committees often need funding to support activities, events, and special projects. Thrivent members are eligible to apply for Action Grants up to twice each year, and these grants can make a meaningful difference in helping our ministries and programs succeed.

If you would be willing to support our committees by applying for one or two grants, please call or email Michelle in the office. She would be happy to gather your contact information and talk with you about how the process works.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our church community!



# Announcements



## Spring Cleaning is in the Air!

First, we are going to have a **cleaning day** at **Salem Lutheran Church** on **Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to either 1 or 2 p.m.** If you would like to volunteer, there is a sign-up sheet at the kiosk. Dave Rockwell will be at the church on June 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m. to organize a caravan to Salem Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, call Kathy Heckler @ 270-763-7224 or Dave Rockwell @419-344-5083. Thanks in advance for considering.

Second, did you know that Salem Lutheran Church offers a **Free Store** to the community? They accept donations and community members; before picking up their meal on Tuesdays, they can shop in the Free Store. So, as you are doing your Spring Cleaning, please consider what you could donate to Salem's Free Store. These are items that they are seeking:

**Household items: \*\*\*gently used or like new\*\*\*** \*Shower curtains \*Window curtains \*Rugs \*Pots & pans \*Plates \*Bowls \*Cooking utensils \*Real spoons & forks (*for safety reasons - no knives*) \*Wall Décor \*Blankets/sheets/pillowcases \*Men/Women/Children clothing & shoes (all sizes) \*Men/Women/Children Coats & Hoodies \*Books for adults/children \*Book bags \*DVD movies

**Hygiene Items: \*\*\*New Items\*\*\*** \*Feminine pads/tampons \*Adult Depends \*Toilet paper \*Razors \*Deodorant \*Lotion \*Socks \*Band-Aids \*Tissues \*Dental floss \*Toothbrushes \*Toothpaste \*Small bottles of mouthwash \*Small first aid kits

**You can bring these donations to church on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, and place them in the library.**

The donations will then be transported to Salem Lutheran.

Blessings

**WELCOMING BASKETS**

**Lif**  
LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER  
www.lifchurches.org

Bridge of Hope is preparing welcoming baskets for migrant families coming to work in the fields of Sandusky County every April. We are asking for donations to help make these possible.

**Dear Congregation,** Destinee from Bridge of Hope, Fremont, was extremely grateful for the winter donations. Currently, she is working on assembling Welcome Baskets for migrant families arriving to work the fields. **Destinee is desperate for work gloves.**

## Collections for Bridge of Hope for migrant workers will begin again!

Items that are needed are: \*empty egg cartons \*plastic laundry baskets \*detergent \*deodorant \*new pillows \*new or gently used pillowcases \*new or gently used towels & washcloths \*hats/neck covers \*bandanas \*socks \*thinner long sleeve shirts \*work clothes \*work gloves \*sunglasses \*reusable water bottles/jugs \*toothbrushes \*toothpaste \*bath wash/soap \*shampoo/conditioner \*sunscreen \*feminine hygiene products \*diapers/wipes \*paper towels \*toilet paper \*small cooler/lunch box

Please place any donations in the wicker basket in the hall off the Gathering space throughout spring, summer, and fall. Thank you! Monetary donations are always appreciated. Those can be made out to Bridge of Hope and sent to Hayes United Methodist Church, 1441 Fangboner Rd., Fremont, OH 43420.



# Announcements



**The Ladies will gather for lunch** on Friday, June 26, at 11:30 a.m. This month, we'll be meeting at Urban Pine Winery, 3415 Briarfield Blvd. Maumee, 43537. Please sign up at the kiosk so we can make reservations. All ladies are invited—feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, please contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

Break out the Turtle-Wax, the Outreach Committee is organizing the inaugural Community of Christ Average Joe's Car Show! Do you have a sweet ride or maybe it just looks GREAT from 10 feet away – either way we'd LOVE for you to show it off to the community here in our parking lot on Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. Food will be available for a free-will offering to support our youth's trip to the National Youth Gathering next year. Come out and purchase a lucky 50/50 ticket to help support our friends down at Salem. You may be asking yourself how can I get involved in this fun experience? The answer is simple – just reach out to a member of the Outreach Committee or look for the sign up sheet on the kiosk so we can ensure we have enough space. We look forward to seeing you – and your ride! Thank you – The Outreach Committee – Cammie Abraham, Dave Braun, Shelly Hayes, Tammy & Greg Myers, Cindy Smigelski, Kari Swagler and Pastor Steve.



WE NEED YOU to get your walking shoes on! The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Whitehouse **Cherry Fest** is coming up, and we'd love for you to join the Outreach Committee in walking in the parade on **Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**. The 1-mile stroll lines up on Oakbrook Dr at noon, the parade kicks off at 1 p.m., and will take you down Waterville Street to Providence Street and through downtown Whitehouse. Candy for passing out will be provided, just bring your smile! Please sign up on the sheet located at the kiosk; the exact meeting spot at Oakbrook will be determined closer to parade day.



## June 21—Gifts in Honor of Father's Day

As we did with gifts for the women of the congregation on Mother's Day, we will have special thank-you gifts for the men of the congregation as we give thanks to God for dads and stepdads, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and the other men God places in our lives.

# Prairie Meadow Update – June 2026

The Prairie Meadow is starting its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of bloom and is off to a wonderful start. The Columbine and Ohio Spiderwort are in full bloom and are truly impressive. As the plot matures, certain species will start to dominate. *Monarda fasciculata* – Bee Balm is spreading well and will certainly attract many pollinators this summer! It appears that the local deer population is also enjoying the impressive supply of native munchies.

The new quarter-acre addition will be selectively treated with herbicide for the non-beneficial weeds, but some seeds from the original plot have landed there and are auto-populating the new plot. We look forward to spreading the new seed, which will be supplied by Toledo Area Metroparks, for this addition next winter!

The Prairie Meadow Task Force was asked by a member of the local birding community to consider adjusting our upward-beaming steeple light during peak bird migration to avoid confusing migrating birds so that they would not expend excess unnecessary energy by being attracted to it. The church council has agreed to turn off the steeple light during May and September of each year to help migrating birds safely and successfully reach their destinations.



*Deer tracks*



*Ohio Spiderwort*



*Eastern Red Columbine*





# Announcements



*Happy!*  
**20<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ordination*  
*Anniversary*  
*Pastor Steve*

## Join us as we help Pastor Steve celebrate a Milestone!

Please join us on Sunday, June 7, following our 9:00 a.m. worship service for lite refreshments and cake as we celebrate Pastor Steve's 20th Anniversary of Ordination. We give thanks for his years of faithful ministry, leadership, and service to his previous congregations and our congregation and community. We hope you'll stay and help us honor this special milestone!



## Farewell Sunday for Eric Dickey—June 14

As we had to share with the congregation earlier in May, our music director Eric Dickey's health issues have led him to decide he can no longer continue as our music director or worship accompanist through his original planned last date of September 6, but he needs to step down right away. He is, however, still open to us having a chance to say farewell and to give thanks to God for his musical gifts among us, as well as to celebrate his time with us. So, we invite you to join us on Sunday, June 14, both in worship at our 9:00 a.m. service and afterward for a reception together, where we can offer our wishes of love and care and give thanks to God for Eric, as well as to ask God's blessing on both him and his wife, Sarah. Hope to see you with us then!

## "Better Together" Toledo Pride Sign-Up

Let's lace up those walking shoes to help love, unity, and inclusion shine brightly in our community. Community of Christ has been asked once again to join a multi-faith initiative and walk in support of the Toledo Pride parade on the morning and midday of Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Last year, more than 300 people from over 30 different local faith communities joined together, highlighting a message that we all Love Out Loud and we are Better Together. Think of this as a chance to say by our presence and our walking feet, "God's love is for you!" to people who might just be aching to hear that they are beloved. Even if that's all our presence can do for someone else, that might just be the starting point for the Spirit to move in amazing and gracious ways. Please consider joining the Outreach Committee and walking to promote inclusion for all in the world that God loves. A sign-up sheet for the walk and information on how to order this year's t-shirt will be located on the kiosk and in SignUp Genius on the church's website, and we'll share more details about walking times and carpooling for those who sign up as we get closer to the event in August.



# Thank you, Friends, in Christ

From the family of Nancy Meyer  
Thank you all for all that you did, from the service to the luncheon and all the kindness that you showed my mom. She really enjoyed spending time at Community of Christ. The Meyer Family

THANKS AND PRAYERS TO ALL C OFC WORSHIPPERS WHO OFFERED THEIR PRAYERS, ENERGIES AND MULTI FORMS OF ASSISTANCE DURING MY RECOVERY FROM A MISHAP IN MARCH. THE LORD WORKS WONDERS THROUGH EACH OF US.

Paul Ayres



## Second Quarter Giving

In the second quarter, our thank you and noisy fund offerings will be designated to support **Bridges of Hope**, continuing our mission of compassion and outreach. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and commitment to making a difference!



## New "Go Team Jesus" Stickers to Help Support Salem!

Check out our new foam-finger-inspired stickers that say, "Go Team Jesus!" in several different colors, on the table in the Gathering Space! We'd invite you to get one or more, which are perfect for putting on your laptop, travel mug, phone case, notebook, or car bumper, and we'd invite your donations of \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00, which we'll use to help support our mission partnerships with Salem Lutheran Church in the north end of Toledo. Get yours today!

# Loving Our Members & Neighbors!

Here are some exciting updates from our friends and mission partners up at Salem in the North End: along with some folks from Norf-End Neighbors and from Olivet Lutheran in Sylvania, some of our Community of Christ folks have done some major reorganization of the Free Store, continue to help with the weekly meals on Tuesdays, and helped host a baby shower for several expecting moms in the neighborhood around Salem! Here are some moments to share and celebrate as we keep looking for ways to make Jesus known!



# Loving Our Members & Neighbors!



Many thanks to all who donated items through Bridge of Hope to help migrant workers have the essentials they need as the season begins, and to our Kathy Heckler, who brought these items to Destinee at Bridge of Hope as she makes welcome baskets!



Special thanks to our group of volunteers who went out today to sing (and play the piano) alongside residents of Blue Creek Nursing Home down the road from the church for our monthly time of singing hymns and favorite songs! Thanks for adding your voices!



Thanks to all who donated supplies for the Welcome Baskets for migrant workers that our friends at Bridge of Hope are making to give out later this month! Another carload of supplies was taken from Community of Christ to Fremont to help with this project!



# Loving Our Confirmands!

Great last class of confirmation today with our Jeopardy-style final exam!



It was great to celebrate with our confirmands and their families as they prepared for four young people who affirmed their faith on Sunday, May 17, at the 10:00 service! Many thanks to the hands of the reception committee for helping serve the meal!



# 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.

2026 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Apr	\$12,427	\$12,763	(\$336)
YTD	\$55,167	\$52,452	\$2,715
2026 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Apr	\$36,454	\$41,569	(\$5,114)
YTD	\$159,448	\$166,980	(\$7,532)



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!



Fred Ortner 06/01  
Bill Happel Jr 06/01  
Joan Schwartz 06/03  
Timothy Roth 06/05  
Ellen Bucher 06/05  
Wendy Gehring 06/06  
Kevin Steinman 06/06  
Valerie Hartbarger 06/08  
Tim Schmidt 06/09  
John Spilker 06/09  
Carol Wiemken 06/10  
Natalie Rilling 06/12  
Jana Dorton 06/12

Frederick Doering 06/14  
Linda Metcalf 06/15  
Stephen Archer 06/15  
Holli Burkard 06/16  
Donna Wagner 06/17  
Brenda Carpenter 06/17  
Bonnie Smigelski 06/18  
Jordan Brosten 06/19  
Doug Boytim 06/22  
Richard Pratt 06/26  
Donna Longnecker 06/26  
Joshua Kohntopp 06/30



We are so thankful for Community of Christ member Judy Mock sharing this painting of hers with us! We have found a good place for it in the main hallway—check it out the next time you are here at church! Thanks to all who share their talents, time, treasure, and love in this church family!



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

**Church Office Hours**  
8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
(Monday through Friday)

**419-877-0607**

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