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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
 LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



August 2026

Worship Hours
Sunday,
9 a.m.

Sunday Morning
Bible Study
 10:15 a.m.

Pastor's Bible
Study

Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Visitation Ministry
 August 3, 10:30 a.m.

Outreach
 August 4, 7:00 p.m.

Social Action
 August 5, 10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music
 August 6, 10:00 a.m.

Christian Ed.
 August 10, 6:30 p.m.

Concert Committee
 August 11, 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
 August 11, 7:00 p.m.

Worship Services
 Available at
www.commofchrist.org

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

Church Office
Closed
Monday,
September 7th



Seeing With New Eyes—August 2026

I think following Jesus teaches us to see things differently. Maybe even to see things we hadn't even realized were there before, already staring us in the face.

This has been one of the threads that I've noticed woven throughout this summer in activities and events here at Community of Christ. We discover that our faith in Jesus affects our vision: we see the world through the lens of God's love for all of it. We take the time to notice things that we might otherwise have missed. We see our connections to things, plants, animals, and people differently in light of our connection to God.

Every week this summer in our Summer Story Hour times, we have been playing this game of sorts called "The Mystery Bag of Mysteries," in which one of the children brings a bag with one or more items from home (chosen in whatever way they wish), and then we have to think together about how that object might connect us to God, or tell us something about God, or remind us of something from the Scriptures. Sometimes they're easy (a stuffed animal of a lamb might remind us of God as our Good Shepherd), and sometimes they are trickier to think out—say, a plastic figurine that looks like a Frosty from Wendy's, or a toy axolotl, or a random piece of plastic tubing. But the challenge is the same: how might *this* object enable us to think about our relationship to God somehow?

And do you know what? We always figure something out! We always find some connection—something that might not have jumped out to us at first, but which was always there, waiting to be discovered. When we start looking at the world through the lens of seeing it all as God's creation, we can't *not* see connections to God everywhere.

Something similar has been happening in our Wednesday evening Spiritual Practice sessions, too: we are discovering new ways of seeing, and often it is a matter of slowing down to *notice* what had been there all the while, but which we did not stop to consider. For example, earlier in June, we were sent all around the building and churchyard in a practice called *reverse visio divina*, looking for "God sightings", whether in the flowers in the prairie meadow, the talents on display in the prayer shawl room, or the photos on the walls. Or in July, when we first announced we were going to be trying *archery* as a spiritual practice, some people wondered what bows and arrows had to do with practicing our faith. But then, as Bryce told us about the process of aligning your sight, of keeping your focus on where you wanted the arrow to go, of slowing down enough to pay attention to your body, your posture, and your breathing, it became clear that the same skills that can help guide an arrow to a target can help us to be mindful of where we are "aiming" in our lives. The connections were already there, waiting to be recognized.

In a way that happens every Sunday, too, as we find ourselves gathered with God's people around the Word, the Table, and the Water. We discover connections—between the Scriptures and our lives, between individuals in the body of Christ,

between the Good News of the Gospel and the needs of the world around us. And part of why we keep coming back to worship every Sunday is to allow the Spirit to shape our vision—to change the way we see the world—by helping us to see the connections waiting to be discovered. That’s what I would invite you to share in this August. In activities and events, in Bible studies, story hours, and spiritual practices, and in the gathered assembly of Sunday morning, allow the living God to deepen our vision and to change the way we see the world.

Sharing the journey with you gratefully,
Pastor Steve



GROWING IN GOD’S WORD

On Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: Bible Stories We Wish We Had

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 by 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 soon-to-be pastor Natalie Downs. Think of it like being invited around the table to listen in on pastors talking through their own faith, questions, and struggles, and being able to take the conversation with you to listen and reflect on wherever you go—in the car, from your smart speaker, or on your phone or tablet.

Our latest series is called “Bible Stories We Wish We Had,” and we are exploring Bible stories that leave gaps or spark questions we wonder about. What was Jesus writing in the dust when the woman who had been caught in adultery was brought to him? Did Jesus ever meet up with any of the people who he had healed later on? What happened to Jonah after God dared him to see God’s love for the people of Nineveh? What was Paul’s “thorn in the flesh”? We invite you to use your own faithful imagination with questions like these, and also to consider why the stories we have might intentionally not give us all the details or answers we want. New episodes release every Tuesday, so check out Crazy Faith Talk weekly all summer long! There’s something for everyone, so listen in and find episodes 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!

Summer Adult Forum—“Journey through the Old Testament” after Worship

On Sundays after worship throughout July and August, we invite you to join us for our summer Adult Forum series, “Journey through the Old Testament.” Over these weeks, we’ll have the chance to take an overview of the books and stories of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament, in the hopes of becoming more familiar with these books, understanding how to read them, the times and cultures they were first written in, and how they continue to speak to us as followers of Jesus today. Join us in the Bible study room on Sundays at 10:15 for this series!

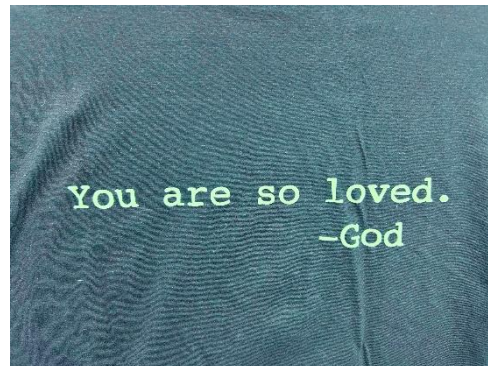
GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



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!



Outreach Offers “Found by Grace” T-Shirts

Starting this August 15 (at the First Inaugural Average Joe’s Car Show here at Community of Christ) and running through September 20, the Outreach Committee invites you to pre-order a new **long-sleeve** t-shirt design with an original logo on the front that reads “Found by grace” that corresponds to our year-long theme of being “Found Family” as church. The backside reads, “You are so loved. – God” and will tell anyone and everyone who walks behind you that they are loved by God, too! These shirts will be for \$20.00 (pre-sale in person on Sunday mornings before and after service, only; no online orders), and all proceeds will be going to help us support the AW Bridges Backpack program that assembles food for school students over the weekends during the school year when they don’t have access to food at home. This is a great witness for your faith and a way to support ministries that help neighbors right in our own backyard! And you’ll have your shirt in time for the chillier weather this fall, when we want to have long sleeve t-shirts! Get yours by ordering in the Gathering Space this August and early September!

The Shaping of Our Hearts A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices

The Shaping of Our Hearts—Spiritual Practice Series for Summer 2026

This August, join us for the two final sessions in our summer series of ten spiritual practices on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. So far, we have been introduced to “Spiritual MacGyvering” and the art of new creation, breath prayer, labyrinth walking, reverse visio divina, “tangible prayer” (like prayer shawls and squares), the prairie meadow, and the Daily Examen. But in our two final sessions, we’ve got more great opportunities to learn new ways of connecting with God in our daily lives and weekly routines.

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.

June 24: “reverse visio divina” with special guest presenter Pastor Sarah Schaaf from our Northwestern Ohio Synod staff. We looked for signs of God’s presence around us!



The Shaping of Our Hearts

A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices

July 5: Thanks to our Bryce Hinegardner for being our special Spiritual Practice presenter as we considered archery as a spiritual practice. He reminded us that attention to the object of our focus (whether a distant target or being centered on Christ) helps to point us in the right direction, and that slowing down to pay attention to ourselves, in our bodies, minds, and vision, can make a difference. Plus, everybody got to actually try out shooting arrows!



July 8: Thanks to special presenters Irene Rang and Sandy Whaley for teaching us about tangible prayer forms like making prayer shawls and squares, and for their EXTREME patience in trying to teach a very dense Pastor Steve how to crochet!



July 15: Thanks for a great time with our own Laurie Mauro, who led us through slow walking meditation and then time in our prairie meadow connecting with the God revealed in creation!





Kids, Youth, and Teens!



Summer Reading Club Continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

We have two more Wednesday morning Story Hour times this summer, on August 5 and August 12. We'll be welcoming kids of all ages to join us from 9:30 to 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 can still check out our bookshelf in the Gathering Space all summer, with a new collection of kid-friendly 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!

It's been great having special guest readers to share stories, too—thanks so much to those who have read a book, sung a song, or shared time with our story hour friends!





Kids, Youth, and Teens!



ELCA National Youth Gathering 2027 – Information Meeting

The 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering is on the horizon, and we'd love for you to learn more about this incredible opportunity!

Youth entering **8th–12th grade during the 2026–2027 school year**, along with their parents, are invited to join us for an informational meeting on **Wednesday, August 26, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme for the 2027 Gathering is **"Imagine More,"** and we'll share what you can expect from this faith-filled experience, including trip highlights, estimated costs, fundraising opportunities, registration deadlines, and other important details. Youth who attended the previous Gathering will also be there to share stories and answer questions about their experience.

Whether you're ready to sign up or simply curious about what the Gathering is all about, we hope you'll join us!

New Children's Ministry – Save the Date!

We're excited to launch a brand-new monthly ministry for the children of our congregation this fall!

Beginning in **September**, we'll gather on the **second Saturday of each month** (September–December) from **5:00–6:30 p.m.** for an evening of food, fun, faith, and fellowship.

We'll begin by sharing a meal together as families. After dinner, while our young adults gather for fellowship and discipleship, children will enjoy their own engaging program featuring lively songs, creative crafts, exciting games, interactive activities, and a Bible message that helps them grow in God's love and discover the wonder of God's creation.

Mark your calendars now—we can't wait to welcome your family for this new opportunity to grow together in faith and community! More details and registration information will be available soon.

Sunday School

As families and teachers begin preparing for a new school year, we are also looking forward to another exciting year of Sunday School at Community of Christ!

As part of our planning, surveys have been mailed and emailed to families with children who are eligible to participate in Sunday School. Your feedback helps us create a program that is engaging, meaningful, and tailored to the needs of our children and families.

If you have not yet completed your survey, we kindly ask that you return it by Sunday, August 9, so we can make the necessary preparations for another wonderful year of learning, growing, and sharing God's love together.

Thank you for taking the time to help us plan for a great year ahead!





Worship Volunteer Schedule

August 2026



Summer Worship Hour 9:00 a.m.

Week	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30
Acolyte/Crucifer	Teresa Loga	Volunteer Needed	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Kari Swagler
Bulletin	Dean Nofzinger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Connie Hudson	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Sarah Rockwell	Kevin Swagler	Neil Raymond	Rick Yokum	Sarah Rockwell
Communion Prep/Clean	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler
Greeter East	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Marilyn Pratt	Chris Rilling	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Richard Pratt	Natalie Rilling	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Greg Aubell	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kevin Swagler	Volunteer Needed	Dean Nofzinger
Verger	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 7/08/2026. 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.commofochrist.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!

fAITH



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:

LARRY BATTLES, JEFF BUCHER, CAROL BORKOWSKI, ERIC DICKEY, VIRGINIA DILLON, TOM DRUSCHEL, TODD DUTCHED, JIM & SUE ENK, LARRY GEER, PAULA GRUHLER, PASTOR RON HEINZ, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, MATT JURRUS, GINNY KRUEGER, PAUL LADD, CHRISTAL & CHAD PRITCHARD, EVELYN REILLY, DICK RISON, PHYLLIS STURGEON, SARAH S., MOLLY WACHTMANN, 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!!!!



Blessing of the Backpacks—Sunday, August 16, in Worship!

As we get ready for the start of a new school year, we invite you to join us for the "Blessing of the Backpacks" in worship on Sunday, August 16. As we have done in recent years, we'll take a moment during the children's sermon to dedicate a new school year to God's care and ask for God's blessing on our students, teachers, staff, & administrators. Students (and teachers!) are invited to bring their backpacks to church at our 9:00 a.m. service, where we'll pray together for God's blessing and get a special gift you can put on your backpack, bookbag, or briefcase to remember God's presence with you throughout the school year!

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



Next Meeting Date
August 3 @ 10:30 a.m.



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



Next Meeting Date
August 6 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 10 @ 6:30 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 11 @ 6:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 11 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date
August 4 @ 7:00 p.m.



Community of Christ will be hosting a blood drive on Friday, September 4th. Please mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information!



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 during vacations.
Please call ahead ☺



Treasurer Needed for 2027 We are seeking a new Treasurer to begin serving in 2027. If you are interested in this important ministry or would like more information, please contact the church office. Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts and talents in support of our congregation's mission.



Announcements



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

Destinee from Bridge of Hope, Fremont, was extremely grateful for the donations that Community of Christ continues to make. She has taken on more migrant farm camps this year than last.

Currently, she is assembling Welcome Baskets for migrant families arriving to work in the fields. Destinee is preparing for the third and largest wave. First come the preppers, then the planters, and now the pickers/harvesters.

The following items are what she needs the most:

3-in-1: Body Wash, Shampoo & Conditioner

New pillows Deodorant Reusable water bottles/jugs

Other items needed are:

Laundry baskets

Toothbrushes/toothpaste

Paper towels

Sunglasses

Socks

Work clothes

Laundry soap

Pillowcases

Diapers/wipes

Small cooler/lunch box

Toilet paper

Feminine hygiene products

Towels/wash clothes

Hats

Sunscreen

Bandanas

And of course, empty egg cartons!

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.

WELCOMING BASKETS



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.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Recruiting new members! We'd love to have some of the men participate. Fred Shuman joined us in June, and he was a delightful addition to the group.

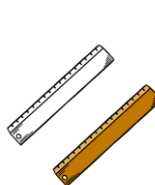
Save these dates for the 26-27 Book Club. This way, you will have a reminder if something comes up that you have the possibility of other plans. In the September Newsletter, I will give an annotated list of the books for the year—we'll solve some mysteries, read something by favorite authors, read for 250, and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald!

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, from 1:00-2:15ish.

- ❖ September 15, October 20, November 17
- ❖ December 15, January 19, February 16
- ❖ March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15

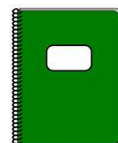


Questions? E-mail or text me! Kathryn Whitacre
567-395-9444; kathrynwhitacre13@gmail.com



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

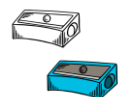
School Kits



Project Promise – Build Kits of Care through Lutheran World Relief. These kits allow students of all ages in third-world countries to attend school. Donations will be collected through September 13.

Items Needed for each bag:

- ❖ 4 – 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose-leaf paper
- ❖ 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches
- ❖ Pencil sharpener
- ❖ 1 pair of **BLUNT** scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ❖ 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- ❖ 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (**no gel ink**)





Announcements



Is your gift knitting or crocheting? A Thrivent grant submitted by one of our members has been used to purchase yarn that is now available for you to make a **Prayer Shawl** that will bless someone else. If you like to work while you cool off in air conditioning or are planning projects for fall, now is a good time to call the office and arrange to choose your yarn.

We have a supply of beautiful, colorful **Prayer Shawls** to be shared. If you know someone who would appreciate receiving one, please get in touch with Irene Rang at 269-832-7714.

Volunteers needed for Tuesday Cooking at Salem

Every week, our mission partners at Salem Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo's North End do amazing work among the people of the Vistula neighborhood, and we are invited to share in it. On Tuesdays, people gather from all over the neighborhood for meals, resources, fellowship, and the support of a wider community--and it is very much a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. Right now, we at Community of Christ are being invited to help in a specific way that can make a real difference in the lives of others. Here is a way YOU can be a part of what God is up to every week at Salem!

We are looking for volunteers to help cook at Salem on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Currently, Julie Paulsen and Dave Rockwell assist every Tuesday, along with Watne King and other volunteers who can assist when they can. We are hoping to get enough people to have two cooking teams to alternate weeks and offer flexibility, so people don't get burned out. The kitchen is small and cannot accommodate large groups, so we are especially looking for those who have some cooking experience and knowledge of what goes on in a kitchen. Latrina Smith from Salem oversees the kitchen; she will offer guidance and a menu plan. Because of the timing, we encourage volunteers to bring their own lunch.

If you would like to try volunteering before committing, the team is happy to work with you. A mentor will be assigned to help you acclimate to the environment.

(For those who may not but would still like to volunteer your time and talents, stay tuned for more ways to get involved!)

New Stickers Remind Us to "Follow the Footprints with Holes"

This August, we have a new original design of a sticker you can use to share your faith AND support ministries like our friends at Salem in Toledo, all at once. These new three-inch square stickers say, "Follow the footprints with holes"—in other words, follow the risen Jesus, who still has the nail marks on his hands and feet but is alive and leading us out into the world. This could spark a conversation with a friend or coworker who sees it on your travel mug, car bumper, or laptop. Or it could be a daily reminder to you that we walk differently in the world, not going after the path of celebrity, wealth, fame, or power, but following Jesus' way of love and service. Get yours starting August 15 at our Average Joe Car Show, and then throughout August as long as supplies last! We invite a \$5.00 donation, and all proceeds will go to help support the ministry of Salem Lutheran Church as they feed neighbors every week on Tuesdays!

follow
the
footprints
with
holes





Announcements



The Ladies Lunch will be going to Barr's Public House on August 28th @ 11:30 a.m. The address is 3355 Briarfield Blvd. Maumee, OH. Please sign up on the kiosk so reservations can be made. Any questions?? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. As always, all ladies are invited & bring a friend!!

Prairie Meadow Update – August 2026 – The Trail Is Open!

A trail that extends through the Prairie Meadow is now open, and a sign designating the start of the trail will be posted soon at the trail's entrance near the northwest corner of the original plot. It also allows for a bit of meandering within if one wants to experience many views of the abundant flowers. The Task Force is working on inspirational signs to be placed throughout to provide spots to stop and ponder God's creation. The signage is being designed to be able to be changed with the season or a given event, with verses appropriate for a car show being planned to be up soon, so that car show attendees can wander in and ponder God's guidance on a journey or path.

The Prairie Meadow was recently featured during a July Wednesday evening Spiritual Practice and was in full bloom, allowing attendees to connect with God through the flowers, pollinators, and birds within.

The addition to the Prairie Meadow is under development for anticipated seeding this Winter. Not surprisingly, many seeds from the original plot are providing blooms in the new plot, which makes application of herbicide a task that takes considerable attention to sort through what to keep and what can go.

Please feel free to stop by the Prairie Meadow and wander and ponder about this wonderful gift from God!



Virginia mountain mint –
Pycnanthemum virginianum



Blue vervain –
Verbena hastata



Gray-headed Coneflower –
Ratibida pinnato



Bee Balm - *Monarda fistulosa*



Prairie Meadow blooms



Announcements



“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 15th**. 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.



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 15th, 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. If showing off your car isn’t your thing, we’ll also have a vendor section where, if you have a talent/passion that you want to share with the community, let us know, and we can set up a table for you to sell your goods. 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, as we are only accepting a limited number of entrants. We look forward to seeing you – and your ride! Thank you – The Outreach Committee – Cammie Abraham, Dave Braun, Tammy & Greg Myers, Cindy Smigelski, Kari Swagler, and Pastor Steve.

Excitement is building for the Car Show at Community of Christ on August 15, 2026!

Word on the street is that John Spilker from Waterville Bodyworks is bringing a gem. OK, guys, now is the time to pull out all the stops and give John some competition.

The Social Action Committee will hold a 50/50 Raffle, and a basket of car goodies donated by John will be up for silent auction. Husbands, your wife can’t get upset because she’s going to love the actual basket! How can you go wrong!?! Thanks, John!

The Social Action Committee is attempting to raise \$460 to purchase two industrial kitchen sink faucets for our friends at Salem Lutheran Church. These faucets will replace two faucets that are currently leaking. If further funds are raised, it will go toward a water fountain/water bottle filler in the church basement for all the guests to use.

So please stop by our booth so we can harass you into buying a few tickets or place a bid on our silent auction. Thanks so much!



Announcements



The Stewardship Committee is on the lookout for new members! This dynamic team helps the congregation by promoting and encouraging joyful giving of their time, talents, and treasures, all while illuminating Making Jesus Known in our congregation and community. We meet every 1-2 months to brainstorm exciting initiatives, like our Festival of Talents, the signing of the Covenant Charter, CofC In-Focus videos, a workshop on spiritual gifts, and more! If you would like to join us and help make a difference, please reach out to one of our members (Kevin Swagler, Tina Baden, Michael Abraham, Dave Alleman, Laurie Mauro, Rose Ackerman) or contact the church office.



MealTrain for Eric Dickey

The Visitation Ministry Team has set up a MealTrain for Eric Dickey while his wife, Sarah, is at work on Thursdays. This began on July 16. Everyone in the congregation should have received an email from Michelle explaining how to sign up to take lunch to Eric. If you did not receive an email, please contact her at the church office. If you would like to help with a meal for Eric, here is how you do it:

Log in to: mealtrain.com/99ko7l (number-9; number-9; letter-k; letter-o; number-7; letter-l). If you have trouble logging in, please call Cinda Pontsler (419-356-9290), and she will gladly help you.

1. Click on the date
2. Fill in the information needed
3. Click on Volunteer, and you are set.

You will receive an email reminder one day before, and on the day you have signed up to deliver a meal. Please call Sarah at (419-351-5783) the day before to arrange a drop-off time. It would be helpful for everyone if you put all items in non-returnable/microwavable containers. If you put the food in dishes that you would like returned, please mark your name on them in a manner that washing won't remove it. Cinda will make sure they are returned to you.

Please deliver the meal ready to eat. If it is necessary to warm it up, please use their microwave to do that. There may be someone at the house with Eric. If no one answers the front door, it will be open, and Sarah has asked us to walk in and let them know you are there. If you would like to prepare a meal but have a conflict, please call Cinda, and she will make sure that it is delivered.

If you have any problems or questions, please do not hesitate to call Cinda at 419-356-9290 or text her at the same number.

Thank you so much for helping Eric and Sarah.



Loving Our Neighbors!



Today, in preparation for the traveling musicians who will be visiting us in a couple of weeks, we were able to obtain from some generous mission partners some of the new appliances we need for the new house we are running. The house restoration team did amazing work rebuilding this space, so our next challenge, which we are meeting with the help of others, is to get the items we actually need in order for the place to operate for the good of the whole order. And quick as a flash, just in time, we now have a way to do the linens and give out-of-town guests a way to do their laundry. As simple as that may seem, it has meant a lot to our traveling musicians, and they were overjoyed that, this year, they'll be able to wash their clothes. Onwards and upwards!



A BIG Thank You to 6/22/20
the Community of Christ Foodbox
and Matt Deutz for helping
one of our residents who needed
a ramp at their house. You
were able to extend the hands
of Christ beyond the walls
of this ministry. Thank you
for your partnership and granting
the gift of renewed mobility.

In Love,
Amm (CPLA, L&U)

Thank you, Friends, in Christ



Thank you so very much
for all of your kindness &
support of our residents. It
is so appreciated. Katie Miller
Sr. EB

Third Quarter Giving

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

Loving Our Neighbors!

Many thanks to all who helped donate items for Salem's Free Store this week, and for the awesome crew who helped with loading, unloading, and delivering to Salem! You are such a blessing! Go Team Jesus!



More items donated by the church were taken to Bridge of Hope in Fremont to help provide essentials to migrant workers! Thanks to those who donated and thanks to those who transported these supplies to help welcome neighbors!



Friends, Faith, & Fellowship!





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.



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.

2026 Building Loan Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Jun	\$13,122	\$12,563	\$559
YTD	\$81,131	\$77,578	\$3,553
2026 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Jun	\$34,194	\$39,238	(\$5,044)
YTD	\$227,805	\$244,170	(\$16,364)

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



Janessa Bucher	08/02	Makayla Stewart	08/13	Bryan Smith	08/22
Elaine Hetherwick	08/03	Pat Rison	08/13	Sarah Rockwell	08/22
Melinda Peters	08/04	Saundi Ludwig	08/13	Bill Reisner	08/23
Mark Winkelman	08/05	Steve Smigelski	08/13	James Fifer	08/24
Stephanie Phillips	08/05	Graci Pollock	08/14	Tim Holliker	08/24
Ava Davis	08/07	Joel Schuchmann	08/15	Bruce Meyer	08/25
Linda Nichols	08/07	Max Weber	08/15	Kelly Reid	08/25
Carrie Tuohy	08/08	Evelyn Bucher	08/17	Rosalie Stewart	08/27
Shelby Myers	08/08	James Merritt	08/17	Brian Jones	08/28
Lauren Swartz	08/10	Katherine Ray	08/17	Josie Hartbarger	08/28
Wilfried Schubert	08/11	Kathy Chamberlain	08/17	Kerrianne Powers	08/29
Dave Greenhagen	08/12	Mark Bond	08/18	Cammie Dorton	08/31
Dave Myerholtz	08/12	Ann Reisner	08/20	Karen Jennings	08/31
				Sandy Boehly	08/31



Congratulations to our Gene Phillips as he was selected to be the "Home Town Hero" at the Muds Hens game on Sunday, July 19! 🇺🇸



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

secretary@commofchrist.org
www.commofchrist.org

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