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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



September 2026

Held in Sorrow and Led in Joy—September 2026

I keep being reminded of how often we can feel two emotions at the same time. We can be grieving a loss and comforted by memories all at once. We can be sorrowful in mourning and hopeful of the promise of resurrection. We can be excited about the future and also anxious about what comes next, just as we can be encouraged by remembrances of the past as well as tearful when we call them to mind. Both can be true at the same time—and they often are.

There's a moment in the story of the people of Israel, too, (you can find it in Ezra 3:10-13) when the people who have come back from exile are dedicating the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, that is tinged with joy and sorrow at the same time. The book of Ezra says, "all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD because the foundation of the house of the LORD had been laid," and yet at the same time, many "who had seen the first house on its foundations wept with a loud voice when they saw this house." And at a distance, "the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping." In one moment, there was joy at the new thing happening and sorrow at the memory of a chapter now closed.

These days, it feels like a similar moment of simultaneous joy and sorrow, of ended chapters and new beginnings, here at Community of Christ. As I write, the news is still fresh about the death of our just-retired music director Eric, whose farewell celebration we just had back in June, and we are preparing for a funeral service at the very end of August. And at the very same time, we are excited to hear the news from our search committee that we have a new music director (Mariana, about whom you'll read more in these pages) who is eager to begin working with our vocal choir and bell choir and to start playing the organ and piano for our services already this September. The overlap of sorrowful and joyful news almost feels like whiplash of the soul—and yet, so often this is how our lives really unfold, isn't it? We are joyful and grieving, hopeful and anxious, nostalgic for the past and ready for a new future all at once. Like the line of the old Sondheim lyric goes, we're "sorry-grateful-regretful-happy" all at once.

And we keep discovering that God remains our constant through all of it. Whether we are "in the valley of the shadow of death" or at the "table prepared for us" at which our "cup overflows," God accompanies us in all of it, and leads us along the way. The promise was never that we could avoid the dark valley, or that we could skip ahead to the table with overflowing abundance. The promise was always that as we go through all of it, God will remain with us—and therefore we "fear no evil," as Psalm 23 reminds us.

In this season, we will be both missing and grieving a dear friend and saint who brought music and joy into our congregation, and we will be meeting and rejoicing over new people brought to serve among us, new beginnings, and new songs to sing together. Perhaps sometimes we'll catch ourselves overhearing the mingled sounds of weeping and rejoicing like those returned exiles dedicating the Second Temple, and we'll know how they felt.

As it turns out, in that story about the people weeping and rejoicing over the new Temple, the one thing that is said about God in the midst of all those conflicting emotions is this: "The LORD is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." Even back then, centuries before even Jesus came on to the scene, the people of God found their footing through joy and sorrow in knowing that God's steadfast love would remain constant.

That's what will hold onto us and lead us forward right now, too.

Sharing the journey with you gratefully, Pastor Steve

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
September 1,
10:30 a.m.

Outreach
September 1,
7:00 p.m.

Social Action
September 2,
10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music
September 3,
10:00 a.m.

Concert Committee
September 8,
6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
September 8,
7:00 p.m.

Stewardship
September 10,
6:00 p.m.

Risk Management
September 10,
7:00 p.m.

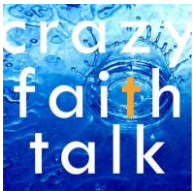
Christian Ed.
September 14,
6:30 p.m.

Worship Services
Available at

www.commofchrist.org

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

**Church Office
Closed, Monday,
September 7th**



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

New on Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: Worship Matters Q & A

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 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 soon-to-be pastor 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.

Our latest series is called “Worship Matters Q & A,” and we’re looking at frequently asked questions and issues in Christian worship. What are the pros and cons of having specific “styles” or *genres* of worship services, like “traditional” and “contemporary” services, or services specifically adapted for people who are neurodivergent? What about revising language—when is it important to keep familiar and longstanding wording for hymns, prayers, or even biblical translations, and when is it wise to update or adapt language for new settings and situations? What about online worship and livestreaming in a post-COVID world? What do we even think the *point* of worship is in a culture of constant entertainment (and seemingly short attention spans)? All of these questions and more are part of this series. New episodes release every Tuesday, so check out Crazy Faith Talk for new conversations every week! 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!

Starting Sept. 11: Thursday Bible Study Explores the Book of Revelation

The last book of the Bible can feel like it should come with a warning. What we know as “Revelation” is a complicated, multi-layered, highly-symbolic, and sometimes encoded book that defies our modern categories and sensibilities. It’s part resistance literature, part call to faithful discipleship, part hopeful vision, and part musical (really!). For many people, the book of Revelation seems daunting to try to read, because it can be hard to understand. Others find themselves compelled to explore because its imagery is so startling and outlandish. And still others throw their hands up after getting just a little ways into the book, because it is unlike anything they’ve read before, including the rest of the Bible!

But despite all the challenges, Revelation really is a powerful and beautiful book to read, and it really does speak a clear word of hope in God’s accomplished victory over evil and death through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. But to see how this book works, and to understand how that message is being communicated, it can help to read together with others. So, this fall, we invite you to a new series in our Thursday Bible Study, opening up the Book of Revelation. Starting on September 11, we’ll gather at 1:00pm every week in the Bible Study/Council room to explore this book, discuss your questions, and uncover the mysteries waiting to be revealed in the book of Revelation.

Remember, too, that we’ll continue to share video catch-up sessions on our social media (see the church Facebook page or YouTube links) 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! See you this September!

New Adult Forum Series Begins Sept. 20 Asks “What Is Salvation?”

Every Sunday, we name Jesus as “Savior and Lord” in worship. Bumper stickers and billboards declare that “Jesus saves!” And we teach our confirmation students in catechism classes that we are “saved by grace through faith, apart from works of the law.” All those sound pretty familiar—maybe we just assume everybody already knows what all of it means. But what exactly is this thing we call *salvation*? How do different voices throughout the Bible use the language of “saving,” and how does that picture get filled in with different images, perspectives, and meanings over the whole story of Scripture? What does it mean to be “saved”—or at least, what do we as

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

(Lutheran) Christians think we are saying when we talk about being *saved*? What does the Bible say about how to be saved and who is saved? Once we start asking those kinds of questions, we realize that there is a lot more to the idea of “salvation”—and the Gospel’s Good News that Jesus is the *savior*—than we first realized. It’s something that seems fundamental to the Christian faith, and yet we can see pretty quickly it’s a much deeper and richer notion that can fit on a bumper sticker or a billboard.

So, join us starting September 20 (our first Sunday returning to two services at 8:00am and 10:00am) between services at about 9:00am for a new series in our Adult Forum, meeting in the Bible Study/Council room, as we explore all of this. In the course of these weeks, we’ll get a better understanding of the Bible, a solid grounding in our hope in Christ, and maybe even a clearer sense of what we are called to share with other people as Good News! There’s a place for you around the table—join us this fall!

Confirmation Classes Resume September 13

Our new year of Confirmation Classes will kick off on Sunday, September 13 (the same day as Blue Jean Sunday), and once again we are looking ahead to a great year in renewed partnership with neighbors at Zion Lutheran in Waterville! This year, our sixth and seventh grade students will be exploring the essentials of the faith, like the Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and what we believe about baptism and Holy Communion, as well as how we live our lives as disciples of Jesus, all with the guidance and insight of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. This year will be a great experience for our young people to grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Christ, while learning to think theologically and live as witnesses! Our first confirmation class session will be September 13 at 12:30pm at Community of Christ, with the rest of the year’s classes rotating location between Zion and Community of Christ. Stay tuned for more news and moments from our year in faith together!

A New Ministry for Our Children

This fall, we’re excited to begin a new monthly ministry for children and families. While we’re still working on the perfect name, we know what we want it to be: a fun, welcoming place where children can build relationships, hear the stories of Scripture, and grow in their faith.

Beginning September 12, we’ll gather on the second Saturday of each month from 5:00–6:30 p.m. for a shared meal, followed by songs, games, crafts, and a Bible-centered message for children. The program is designed especially for children from Pre-K through 4th grade, though children of all ages are welcome.

At the same time, parents and other adults will have an opportunity to participate in the young adult portion of the evening. Our hope is that this will be more than simply childcare. It will be a chance for our children to form friendships with one another and experience some of the foundational stories of our faith in a way that is engaging and meaningful.

There is no cost to participate. Families interested in attending can contact the church office and watch for upcoming emails with RSVP information.

Youth Rally Day

We’re kicking off another year of youth ministry, and we want to start with some fun! On **September 13**, Rooted will gather during our regular evening meeting time for our Youth Rally Day. We’ll play games, enjoy some snacks (and hopefully a snow cone or ice cream truck!), and celebrate all that’s ahead for our youth this year.

This year, we’re especially excited to build new energy around both **Rooted and our Sunday School opportunities for youth**. Our hope is to create spaces where our young people can build friendships, grow in faith, ask questions, and have a lot of fun along the way.

If you have a junior high or high school student, we hope they’ll come be part of what we’re building this year. We’re excited to see what God has in store!

The Shaping of Our Hearts

A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices

At the **July 29th** spiritual practice, we explored the beauty, challenge, freedom, and also bittersweetness of making something creative that we knew would not last. By making designs with poured sand in different colors, knowing all along that they would be poured out into a glass jar at the end of the evening, we practiced the importance of the present moment as an offering to God, and saw how much of our lives is actually spent doing small acts of love whose impact will not necessarily last for a long time, but are still worth doing for the sake of the ones we love. Every time we cook a meal, wash a dish, do the laundry, grow a garden, or raise a child, we are practicing the spirituality of the ephemeral, and trusting that, as Ecclesiastes says, "everything is breath."



August 5th Thanks for those who joined us for Taize style prayer and song at our second-last spiritual practice of the summer!



The Shaping of Our Hearts

A Summer Series of Spiritual Practices

August 5th Thanks to all who joined us for our final spiritual practice session on visual arts as we considered how God chooses to be revealed in the human life of Jesus. We made our own depictions of Jesus in whatever direction we wanted to take that prompt.

Thanks to all who joined us throughout each session this summer!





Kids, Youth, and Teens!



Sometimes the lesson learned isn't the lesson planned. Yesterday, youth from our shared Rooted group gathered, prayed together, and then carpooled up to River Raisin for a canoe trip. We left with our hearts set on meeting God in the beauty of creation. Along the way, we quickly learned that eight miles is a lot farther than we anticipated... especially when there isn't much current and you have three hours to make it happen!

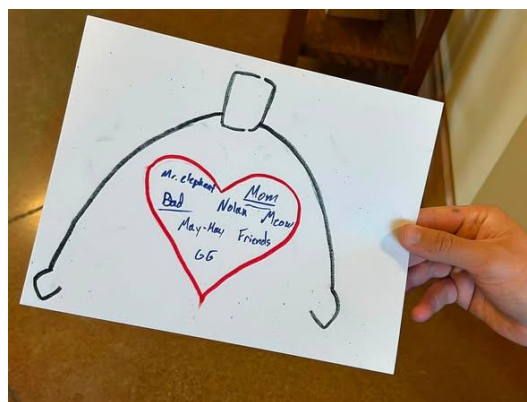
There was plenty of fun and laughter along the way, but there was also plenty of hard work. I'm especially proud of their determination to keep paddling, encouraging one another, and pressing forward when the only way out is through.

Maybe that's where we encountered God most yesterday. Not just in the beauty of creation, but in the challenge, the perseverance, and the community we found along the way.



Thank you to all our kiddos who attended our Summer Reading Club this Summer!

Wednesday, July 29





Kids, Youth, and Teens!



Wednesday, August 5th



Wednesday, August 12th

We had a great final story hour this morning, with friends who got to sing, dance, shake hands, scratch backs, throw a beach ball as we prayed, hear the story of The Three Trees, and get our special prizes for reading all summer long!





Worship Volunteer Schedule

September 2026



(9 a.m. on 9/6 and 9/13) (8 and 10 a.m. on 9/20 & 9/27) Services

Week	Sept 6 ****9 AM only	Sept 13 ***9 AM only	Sept 20 TWO Services	Sept 27 TWO Services
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga
Acolyte/Crucifer 9/10:00	Teresa Loga	Teresa Loga	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Connie Hudson	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 9/10:00	Volunteer Needed	Connie Hudson	Kari Swagler Connie Hudson	Volunteer Needed
Camera Operator	Sarah Rockwell	Don Shcroeder	Kevin Swagler	Rick Yokum
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Joseph Perkins	Volunteer Needed
Communion Prep/Clean 9/10:00	Volunteer Needed	Bev Fischer	Kari Swagler	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Volunteer Needed	Rick Metcalf
Greeter East 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Volunteer Needed	Linda Metcalf
Greeter East 9/ 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Marilyn Pratt	Rob Kohntopp	Natalie Rilling
Greeter West 9/ 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Jill Kohntopp	Volunteer Needed
Lector 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Teresa Loga	Marita Perkins
Lector 9/10:00	Carol Wiemken	Fred Doering	Greg Aubell	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 9/10:00	Don Schroder	Teresa Loga	Volunteer Needed	Kara Yokum
Verger 8:00	None Needed	None Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Verger 9/10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 8/17/2026. If you need to cancel your scheduled date, please arrange for another volunteer to take your place and fill your time slot. Remember to cancel your slot on Sign-Up Genius so the person covering for you can sign up.**

Lectors: The readings are available for preview on our website at www.commofchrist.org under "Worship and Bulletins" and then the appropriate bulletin date.

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

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

The Verger is a caretaker role who keeps their eyes and ears open to lend a hand for any need that arises with congregants or worship providers during the service.

Should you have any questions, please contact Laurie Mauro at (419) 877-5366. Thank you all for your time and attention to helping make our Worship Services run smoothly!

Blessings, Prayers & More

Prayers

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE ILL, SHUT IN, RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED, MILITARY, OR IN NEED OF PRAYER:

JEFF BUCHER, CAROL BORKOWSKI, DONNA COCHRAN, VIRGINIA DILLON, TODD DUTCHED, JIM & SUE ENK, PAULA GRUHLER, PASTOR RON HEINZ, RON HETHERWICK, LUKE HOLTZ, ART INGMIRE, MATT JURRUS, GINNY KRUEGER, PAUL LADD, JUDY MOCK, 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, RYAN DUNN, AMANDA ROTH

Prayers of the Church

Prayer Requests



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!!!!

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



IN LOVING 
Memory

We hold the families of our dear friends Eric Dickey, Larry Battles, and Jerry Elsholz in our prayers, asking our Lord to surround them with peace and comfort in the days ahead.



CoC Ministry Dates to Remember



Next Meeting Date

September 1 @ 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting Date

September 1 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

September 2 @ 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting Date

September 3 @ 10:00 a.m.



Next Meeting Date

September 8 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

September 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

September 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

September 10 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

September 14 @ 7:00 p.m.



Join us for our last summer
9:00 a.m. service outdoors
on **Blue Jean Sunday**,
September 13th, and don't
forget your lawn chair!



Blood Drive Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Community Center
6517 Finzel
Whitehouse, OH 43571

**Friday, September 4, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code:
COMMUNITYCHRIST or call
1-800 RED CROSS.



The American Red Cross and Hello Kitty are releasing
exclusive NEW merch! Come give blood Sept. 1-20 for a
super-cute Red Cross x Hello Kitty collectible item,
while supplies last!



Announcements



Community of Christ Welcomes Mariana Steffan as Music Director!



Please welcome Mariana Steffan as our new Music Director! Mariana brings many years of experience serving as a church music director, organist, pianist, and music educator. She looks forward to diving into our music ministry, supporting our volunteer musicians, and growing closer to God through music. Mariana has a passion for working with people of all ages and musical backgrounds.

She holds a Master's degree in Music Performance from Bowling Green State University and resides in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Outside of church, Mariana enjoys meeting new people, traveling, and attending local events. During day times on school days, she also teaches music at St. Rose Catholic School in Perrysburg (so her presence with us will most frequently be in evenings and on weekends).

Mariana is delighted to join the Community of Christ Lutheran Church family and looks forward to worshiping, serving, and making music together! We'll have the chance to welcome and meet Mariana at Blue Jeans Sunday (September 13) at the meal following the outdoor service, and then her first Sunday to play for worship will be September 20 as we return to our 8:00am and 10:00am services.



Vocal Choir and Bell Choir Resume for Fall

As we prepare to welcome Mariana Steffan to Community of Christ, we are also excited to see our vocal and bell choirs resume for the fall with the help and leadership of our new music director, Mariana. She is already looking at music and working on setting anthems and special music for the season ahead, and we would love you to join and add your voice or your bell-ringing hands! As in the past, **vocal choir** will meet on **Wednesdays at 7:00pm starting September 16**, and **bells** will begin the following evening at **7:00pm on Thursday, September 17**. You can sign-up to help us know you are planning to join at the sign-ups on the kiosk, you can let the church office know by phone or email. We are excited about a new chapter in our music ministry here at Community of Christ, and we would love you to join us making a joyful noise!

Stewardship Committee Invites You to Express Yourself in Art

On Sundays this September, Stewardship Committee invites you to help in creating a new piece of sanctuary artwork that will symbolize how each of us brings different gifts and passions to serve Christ and the people around us. Throughout this month, we'll have a table set up in the Gathering Space on Sundays at which you can take a square and add a design that represents *your* God-given talents, loves, abilities, or skills, and how you might offer them to God. Then we'll take all of them and put them together into a new mural/banner that will go up in the sanctuary later this fall as we prepare to dedicate our time, talent, and treasure back to God's service in the year ahead! We hope you'll add your own piece to our creation as one more way of saying "YES!" to what God is up to here at Community of Christ!

Announcements



Imagine More: The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering



Next summer, we're dreaming about something big for our youth: the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, June 28–July 2.

The Gathering brings thousands of teenagers from across the country together for several days of worship, learning, service, fellowship, and faith exploration. While I haven't experienced a Gathering myself, everything I've learned so far has made me excited about what this could mean for our young people.

Our hope is to take as many youth as possible from Community of Christ and Providence. Ideally around 20, but ultimately as many as want to come and be part of the experience. Friends are welcome as well, provided they become part of the group and participate in the preparation leading up to the trip.

For our youth, this is about more than taking a trip to Minneapolis. It's an opportunity to ask questions, explore their faith alongside thousands of other young people, and intentionally consider what they truly believe and how they want to live that faith out.

Registration opens October 21, so if you or your youth are interested, please reach out to me before then so we can have a conversation and help you learn more about what's ahead.

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.

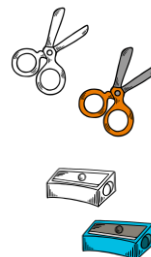
Save these dates for the 26-27 Book Club. This way, you will have a reminder if something comes up that you have the possibility of other plans. In the September Newsletter, I will give an annotated list of the books for the year—we'll solve some mysteries, read something by favorite authors, read for 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 Still Needed for each bag:

- ❖ **4 – 70-sheet notebooks** of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose-leaf paper
- ❖ **Pencil sharpener**
- ❖ **1 pair of BLUNT scissors** (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Announcements



Volunteers from Community of Christ continue to provide rides to members and friends of the congregation—for doctor's appointments, therapy sessions, the grocery store and more.

Visitation Ministry is now in need of additional drivers to add to our volunteer list. If you are able and willing to help when a need arises, please sign the sheet on the kiosk or reach out to Michelle in the office.

If you have questions, contact Cheryl Fischer at (419) 345-3033.

We Want YOU for the Festival of Talents—October 17th

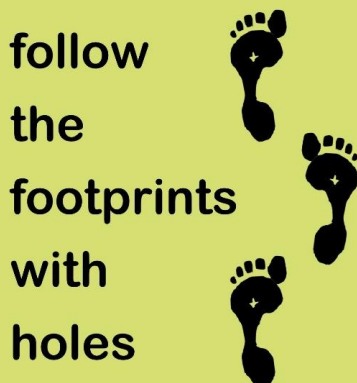
We need YOU—or better yet, we want to celebrate and honor *your* talents and abilities together with our whole church family! As part of our Third Annual Festival of Talents, we are once again inviting YOU to share your talents and celebrate the talents of others! On the weekend of October 17-18, we want to celebrate the many kinds of talents in our church family from people of all ages, from kids to great-great-grandparents, and everybody in between! That will include an evening program on Saturday, October 17 at 7:00pm where we can perform, display, and show talents of any kind.

Do you have a musical talent? Bring a song to sing, a piece to play, or share an ensemble with some other folks from Community of Christ! Are you a poet? Would you share a poem you have written? Are you exploring drama as a hobby or class at school? You could share a performance of a monologue, poem, or scene! Would you share a piece of artwork you've made, or a quilt or afghan you've sewn or knitted? Are there handcrafts or wood projects you've built, or skills you can showcase? We want to share them all—whether performed like in a talent show or displayed in our fellowship hall and gathering space like a gallery—all of it will be a part of this special weekend! Sign up at the kiosk and let us know about what you'd like to share as YOUR talent!

We'll also be using that weekend to let our congregational committees have displays and tables to share more of what they do, and how *you* might want to be a part of their ministry. Want to find out more about what the Toolbox ministry does? Interested in learning more about Social Ministry or Fellowship? This will be a chance to hear, see, and learn more, too.

All of this will make for a great weekend between our Saturday program on October 17 at 7:00pm and Sunday worship on October 18, and we hope you can plan to be with us for all of it to share in the excitement and to celebrate our various talents and gifts from God!

New Stickers Remind Us to “Follow the Footprints with Holes”



This September, 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 in the Gathering Space 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!

Announcements



A Bible Study for Teen Girls

Seamless
Understanding the
Bible as One Complete Story



angie smith

LifeWay | Girls

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday September 15th @ 8:30am. We will be using a new author Angie Smith and doing her study "Seamless Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story". Please order the workbook. There will be 7 weeks of study ending on October 27th. We will view a short video have a discussion time and daily homework. This is a different topic and will be exciting to view the Bible as a whole. Please sign up at the kiosk. Any questions? Call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. All ladies of the church are invited and ask a friend!! See you in September!!

Please help us celebrate

DONNA'S 95TH BIRTHDAY
with a

Shower
BY MAIL!

We would like to make Donna Cochran's birthday a memorable one this year by showering her with love and cards from her dearest friends and family – that's you!

.....
Include a favorite memory, an old photo, or simply well wishes for her milestone birthday!

Please send your cards by September 18th.
Her address is 401 Lake Cascades Pkwy.
Room 104, Findlay OH 45840.



A Special Birthday Celebration for Donna Cochran! ❤️ 🎉

We'd love for our church family to help us celebrate a very special milestone for our mom, Donna Cochran's 95th birthday! What a beautiful blessing it would be to surround her with cards, memories, and warm birthday wishes from the many people who care about her.

Please take a moment to join in this special "Shower by Mail" and help make Donna's 95th birthday one she'll always remember! Thank you!

Blessings,
Marsha Cochran



Announcements



Prairie Meadow Update – September 2026

The Prairie Meadow is buzzing with pollinators and now features an entry sign and the first edition of Prayer Path signage, aimed at travelers. The Prayer Path opened on August 15th for the Car Show and features six prayer stations. The path was widened a bit to facilitate finding the prayer stops easily. Each stop includes a Bible verse aimed at a journey or path.

The new addition to the Prairie Meadow continues to be treated to minimize seeding of undesirable plants and permit better soil contact for the native seeds that will be hand sown in the winter, while also lessening competition for the new plants from undesirable weeds and crabgrass.

Stop out and enjoy the native blooms soon. The color will continue to change weekly as new blooms arrive and continue throughout the fall.



Tall sunflower (*Helianthus giganteum*)



Outreach Offers “Found by Grace” T-Shirts

Continuing through September 20, 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 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 back yard! 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!

Loving Our Neighbors!

Another load of needed items has been taken to Bridge of Hope in Fremont to distribute to migrant workers who need them, from soap and deodorant to egg cartons for eggs and work gloves. Thanks to all who have donated, and thanks to our Kathy Heckler who made the trip to transport these items! Way to make Jesus known!



Thanks to all who came out to sing with our friends at the Blue Creek Nursing Home! We sang some classics and learned one or two new ones, too! Join us on Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00am!



Helping our neighbors at Salem Lutheran Church from Tuesday meals to a day of clean up!!!
Thank you to all involved!!

Loving Our Neighbors!

Pastor Steve "Making Jesus Known" by welcoming members, friends, and neighbors to our Sunday morning service ❤️



Dear CofC family,

Dave & I wanted to express our deepest appreciation to you for hosting our father's funeral service and luncheon

He dearly loved this community, and seeing his legacy live on through the work you do every day to carry out the mission of the church is incredibly moving. Thank you for the love and affection shared with us. We are grateful.

ce and peace,
th, Dave
and families



Blessing of the Backpacks ❤️

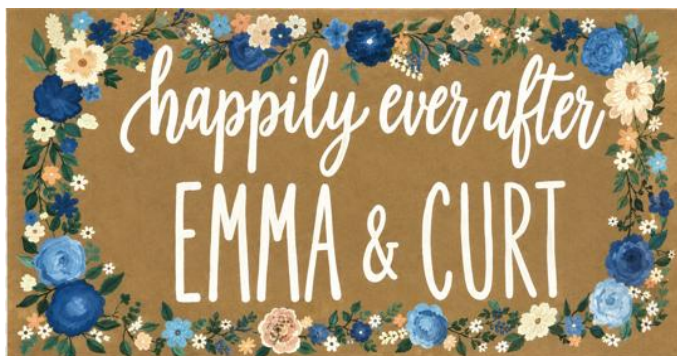
Our students and teachers received a special blessing during worship as we dedicate the new school year to God's care. Each child received a "Blessed to be a Blessing" tag for their backpack—a reminder that wherever they go, they carry God's love and are called to share it with others.

Praying for a safe, joyful, and meaningful school year for all!



Friends, Faith, & Fellowship!

A huge thank you to everyone who made our "Average Joe Car Show" a success! Whether you registered a car, truck, or tractor, ran a table, worked behind the scenes, or came out to support our great causes—we appreciate you. We couldn't have done it without you!



What a joy to celebrate with Emma Fifer and Curtis Rhoten as we hosted their wedding celebration! Congratulations!!!





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.
Jul	\$10,499	\$12,563	(\$2,064)
YTD	\$91,630	\$90,141	\$1,489
2026 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Jul	\$31,465	\$33,773	(\$2,308)
YTD	\$259,270	\$277,943	(\$18,673)

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



Joan Bierley	09/01	Laurie Dewitz	09/12	Greg Archer	09/23
Brenda Druschel	09/01	Chad Ackerman	09/12	Grant Schuchmann	09/24
Don Heilmann	09/01	Declan Stewart	09/13	Cody Steinman	09/24
Stella Fifer	09/01	Caleb Leonard	09/15	Sandy McPherson	09/28
Larry Battles	09/05	Elaine Schubert	09/16	Catherine Sautter	09/28
Karen Oden	09/06	Andy Ollerenshaw	09/16	Beverly Fischer	09/28
Kyler Dorton	09/06	Joseph Perkins	09/17	Susan Kaplan	09/28
Cherryl Stout	09/07	Donna Cochran	09/18	Lisa Papenfuss	09/28
Jacob Detwiler	09/07	John Schuchmann	09/18	Kevin Swagler	09/29
Larry Druschel	09/09	Amanda Kohntopp	09/19	Kara Yokum	09/29
Leanna Swartz	09/09	Lainie Davis	09/21	Lucas Ray	09/29
Lou Crippen	09/12	Tracy Brosten	09/22	Karen Meyer	09/30



Worship Schedule Update

Beginning **Sunday, September 20**, we will return to **two worship services** each week:
8:00 a.m. and **10:00 a.m.** with Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m.



Like us on Facebook

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Monday through Friday)

419-877-0607

secretary@commofchrist.org

www.commofchrist.org

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