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COMMUNITY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Making Jesus Known



October 2026

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

Sunday Morning
Bible Study
9:15 a.m.

Pastor's Bible
Study

Thursdays 1:00 p.m.

Visitation Ministry
October 5,
10:30 a.m.

Outreach
October 6,
7:00 p.m.

Social Action
October 7,
10:00 a.m.

Worship & Music
October 7,
6:00 p.m.

Christian Ed.
October 12,
6:30 p.m.

Concert Committee
October 13,
6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting
October 13,
7:00 p.m.

Stewardship
October 14,
6:00 p.m.

Worship Services
Available at
www.commofchrist.org

Church Office
Closed, Monday,
October 12



Embodying the Kingdom—October 2026

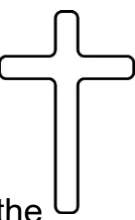
The old rule for writers says, “Show, don’t tell.” A good writer doesn’t have to say, “The sunset was beautiful,” but rather might describe “the sinking red ball of the sun that lit up the surface of the lake in sparkling shades of orange, gold, and yellow and turned the gulls overhead into silhouettes.” You don’t have to tell your readers that a character is kind if you describe your protagonist being generous, smiling with concern, or offering a hug to someone whose heart is breaking. You get the idea.

Jesus does the same thing, too, of course, throughout the Gospels: he doesn’t just say, “God is kind” or “You should be nice to each other.” He tells stories about God’s compassion with images like a father running out to meet a long-lost son, and he shows his disciples what it looks like to serve humbly by washing their feet. And then he sends his community of followers out into the world, not simply with words, but to enact in our lives what God’s Reign looks like. We are sent still to *embody* what the Kingdom of God looks like for the world, even if just in glimpses and sketches with our actions, our presence, and our choices.

You may well have heard the old line that says, “You may be the only Bible somebody else ever reads,” which is a way of saying that before other people are drawn to read about God in the Scriptures, they may first need to see in your life what kind of difference God makes in us. This is also why the church isn’t just a pamphlet-printing society where we write out all the “right answers” and mail them to our community hoping they’ll believe in God as a result. We don’t just talk about God—we embody for the world what God’s love is like, what God’s compassion is like, what God’s generosity is like, and what God’s goodness is like.

And in this month, we can do that in any number of ways. You might help make casseroles and other freezer meals that can be given to neighbors and friends who need a bit of respite in the kitchen after being in the hospital. You might help bake or bag cookies to give away to people in our community for this fall’s Cookie Sunday on October 10. You might visit residents of Blue Creek Nursing Home who would love a visitor or sing along with us at our monthly worship time on second Tuesdays. You might help on a project at Salem Lutheran in Toledo or at the Genacross Lutheran Services children’s home in our community. Maybe you’ll help us give out candy at our local Boo-To-Do or Whitehouse trick-or-treat nights, or the Trunk or Treat up at Salem with the Norf-End Neighbors. You could be the friendly face a stranger needs or be the voice of encouragement for a friend dealing with grief. Or maybe you’ll be willing to have a difficult but necessary conversation with someone in your family that you have been putting off (maybe even after attending our rescheduled workshop on “Having Hard Conversations”). There are many ways we can *embody* what the kingdom of God is like for one another, and for the watching world. And when it’s more than just lip service, but arising out of our actions, choices, and presence, people will sense that it’s real. The world around us is tired of voices that are all talk but no substance—we have been given the gift

FROM PASTOR STEVE CONTINUED.....



as the people of God of something deeper, something genuine, something that sinks down into the heart of who we are. That's what we are invited to be a part of in this month, and always. Show, don't tell. *Embody the kingdom.*

Sharing the journey with you gratefully,

Pastor Steve

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



New on Crazy Faith Talk Podcast: Hurdles for the 21st Century Church

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** as well as **iTunes**! 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.

In our latest series, we're asking the question, “What is the biggest hurdle facing the church right now?” and then each of our contributors will get the chance to highlight a particular concern that the 21st century church faces, and what we think we can do to respond to these hurdles. Over the course of this series, we'll explore the fraught topic of Christian nationalism, the issue of the clergy shortage across multiple denominations and regions in the country, the challenge of recovering discipleship as part of the Christian life, and the dangers of a consumer mindset within Christianity. Each of these can seem like a daunting issue, but in conversation with one another, we'll explore how these challenges show up in our congregations and everyday lives, and how we respond to them. 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!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



Continuing in October: 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. Continuing this October, 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. Copies of previous weeks’ handouts are available in the Gathering Space in case you need one. 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 October as we focus on the good news of God’s victory in Jesus!



Fall Adult Forum Series Explores the Question, “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 (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 on Sundays this fall between services at about 9:00am for our current 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!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD



Confirmation

Confirmation is officially underway! Our confirmands and their families gathered for their first meeting last month, beginning a new year of learning, questions, conversation, and growing together in faith.

This year, we are looking forward to exploring what it means to be Lutheran. We began with pizza, a paper fight, an opportunity for our confirmands to ask their confirmation leaders some of the questions they have for God, and hearing a story about a Ragman.

Confirmation is about more than learning information. It is an opportunity for these young people to continue growing into the faith they were baptized into, surrounded by a community that promises to walk alongside them. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of that journey and excited for all that this year will bring.

In October, we will gather three times. On October 3, we will meet at Zion Lutheran in Waterville at 8:45 a.m. to help build beds for children in the Toledo area who do not currently have access to one. We will then meet October 11 at Community of Christ from 12:30–2:00 p.m. and October 25 at Zion from 12:30–2:00 p.m.



Faith Lab

A new ministry called Faith Lab got off to a great start in September! On the second Saturday of the month, children and young adults from the congregation gathered together for an evening of food, fellowship, and faith formation.

While the young adults enjoyed some kid-free time diving into the Gospel reading for the week, our children explored the story of creation and learned a simple but important truth: God created everything, and God created me.

Through storytelling, scavenger hunts, silly songs, and other activities, the children had the opportunity to experience the creation story in ways that were fun, engaging, and hands-on. We also began the evening by sharing a meal together, giving everyone a chance to connect before heading into their separate activities.

We are excited to see how Faith Lab continues to grow as a space where children, young adults, and the whole congregation can learn, grow, and build relationships together. Join us this month on October 10th from 5:00-6:30 to hear about how God saved Noah, and God saves us.



KIDS, YOUTH, AND TEENS!



Sunday School

Sunday School is back in action! We are thankful for another year of learning, growing, and discovering more about who God is and who God calls us to be.

Our children have started the year exploring the ways God keeps His promises forever. Through stories, activities, and conversation, we are helping our children discover that the stories of Scripture are not simply stories from long ago, but stories that help us understand God's love and faithfulness today.

We have also added a new opportunity this year with Youth Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. between services every other week. We are starting by diving into the Bible and asking some big questions: Where did the Bible come from? Who wrote it? How did we get the Bible we have today? And why should we trust it?

Whether you are just starting preschool or about to graduate high school, we hope you will join us in learning.

Rooted

Our Rooted youth ministry continues to bring together students from Community of Christ, Providence, Hope UMC, and beyond for faith, friendship, and plenty of fun. We are grateful for the growing community of young people who are finding a place to belong, ask questions, serve others, and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Here is what's coming up for our regular Rooted gatherings in October:

October 4: Community of Christ, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

October 11: Providence, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

October 18: Community of Christ, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

October 25: Providence, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

On October 18 at 10:00 a.m. at Community of Christ and October 25 at 9:00 a.m. at Providence, our youth and their families are invited to join us for worship, even if it is not their usual place of worship. Youth will have the opportunity to share the gift of their voices by singing Sanctuary for the congregation and helping with different leadership roles throughout the service.

If you are able to come and want to know about leadership roles, please contact Bryce.



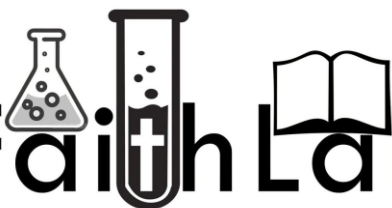


KIDS, YOUTH, AND TEENS!



A great time was had at our first FaithLab of the fall, learning that GOD MADE EVERYTHING AND GOD MADE ME! Thanks to all who came out!




FaithLab



Worship Volunteer Schedule

October 2026



Week	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25
Acolyte/Crucifer 8:00	Josef Perkins	Teresa Loga	Laurie Mauro	Teresa Loga
Acolyte/Crucifer 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Youth	Kari Swagler
Bulletin 8:00	Connie Hudson	Connie Hudson	Carol Wiemken	Volunteer Needed
Bulletin 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Heather Boytim	Youth	Volunteer Needed
Camera	Neil Raymond	Kevin Steinman	Youth	Kevin Swagler
Communion Prep/Clean 8:00	Sharon Miller	Sue Brown	Sharon Miller	Josef Perkins
Communion Prep/Clean 10:00	Susan Raymond	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kari Swagler
Geeter West 8:00	Volunteer Needed	R & M Pratt	Rick Metcalf	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East 8:00	Volunteer Needed	R & M Pratt	Linda Metcalf	Volunteer Needed
Greeter East 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Youth	Volunteer Needed
Greeter West 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Youth	Volunteer Needed
Lector 8:00	Marita Perkins	Teresa Loga	Josef Perkins	Volunteer Needed
Lector 10:00	Carol Wiemken	Volunteer Needed	Youth	Volunteer Needed
Worship Asst 8:00	Josef Perkins	Cheryl Fischer	Laurie Mauro	Teresa Loga
Worship Asst 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Kevin Swagler	Youth	Don Schroeder
Verger 8:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Verger 10:00	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

****Volunteer list as of 9/22/2026. 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, 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

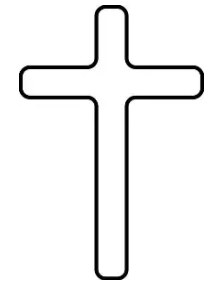
Children of all ages, please join Pastor Steve for a Children's Sermon at the 9:00 a.m. service. This is the Pastor's time to share the good news of Jesus with our younger friends! He'll even have a sticker waiting just for YOU!!!!

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 family of our dear friend Judy Mock in our prayers, asking our Lord to surround them with peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Dear Community of Christ Family,

I want to express my deep gratitude to you all for the love and prayers, cards and meals, thoughtfulness and great care over the past months. Eric and I both felt your support and it as been so very appreciated. You are a wonderful group of truly generous and kind people.

Thank you so much,
Sarah Magoun

CoC MINISTRY DATES TO REMEMBER



VISITATION MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date

October 5 @ 10:30 a.m.



Outreach

Next Meeting Date

October 6 @ 7:00 p.m.



SOCIAL ACTION
MINISTRY

Next Meeting Date

October 7 @ 10:00 a.m.



Worship
Music

Next Meeting Date

October 7 @ 6:00 p.m.



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Next Meeting Date

October 12 @ 6:30 p.m.



Concert Committee

Next Meeting Date

October 13 @ 6:00 p.m.



Church Council Meeting

Next Meeting Date

October 13 @ 7:00 p.m.



Next Meeting Date

October 14 @ 6:00 p.m.



Festival of Talents

Saturday, Oct. 17, at 7:00pm

Community of Christ Lutheran Church

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!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Musical Notes from Mariana

"Sing to the Lord a new song!" — Psalm 96:1

Beginning in a new place brings many things to learn, and I truly appreciate your kindness, patience, and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who has offered encouragement, support, and help as I get to know the congregation and our music ministry. I am excited about what we can build together and look forward to making music with all of you!

Music continues to bring us together in worship and fellowship at the Community of Christ! This month, our Vocal Choir and Bell Choir will continue working on anthems and special music to share during Sunday services. We are also looking forward to music from children, soloists, instrumentalists, and chamber musicians!

There is always room for more people to participate in our music ministry—whether you enjoy singing, ringing bells, playing an instrument, or sharing music as a soloist. **All are welcome!**

If you are interested in becoming involved, please sign up at the music ministry sign-up sheets on the kiosk. You are also welcome to talk to me or send me a quick email at music@commofchrist.org.

Our Rehearsal Schedule

Vocal Choir: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Bell Choir: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

May the songs we offer continue to inspire faith, unity, and joy in our Community of Christ church family.

With gratitude for making music together,

Mariana



Stewardship Committee Unveils Mosaic Mural This October

Throughout the month of September, we invited Community of Christ members to make their mark on a giant-sized work of art that we are unveiling in our worship space this October. We asked you to write or draw an example of a way you can use your gifts for God's work in the year ahead here on a colored square of paper, and all of them are being incorporated into a ten-foot-wide mural that will go up in our worship space throughout the month of October, as we prepare to dedicate our commitments of time, talent, and treasure this month for the year ahead. Check it out in worship—and take a look at some of our in-process pictures of the mural during its construction!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join Our Stewardship Committee!

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, workshop on spiritual gifts, and more! If you would like to join us and help make a difference, reach out to one of our members (Kevin Swagler, Tina Baden, Michael Abraham, Dave Alleman, Laurie Mauro, Rose Ackerman) or contact the church office.

Offering Our Time, Talent, and Treasure for 2027

Once again, this October, we are inviting everyone at Community of Christ to prayerfully consider how **YOU** will use your **time**, **talent**, and **treasure**—all gifts from God—in the year ahead, with our Time and Talent forms, and our invitations to Financial Commitment for the year 2027! You've already been given incredible gifts by God: the hours in each day, the abilities and interests that make us unique, and the resources we live on. Those are already in your hands, like a present waiting to be unwrapped and taken out of the box. This September, your household should have received new Time and Talent forms and Invitation to Financial Commitment forms for 2026-2027—if you need a new one, we've got extras in the gathering space at church! Then we ask you to complete those and return them to the church by October 18, so that we can get new volunteers connected with the ways they are being led to serve, and so that we can make our proposed 2027 budget grounded in realistic expectations of our planned giving. This year you'll see that we are inviting all in our congregation to consider prayerfully supporting our **general operating fund** (*which pays for things like the light bill, office staff, and resources for ministry programming*) and our **building fund** (*which helps pay down the building loan for our most recent addition that includes the sanctuary, gathering space, and offices*), and also our **organ maintenance fund**, which will help us prepare for some significant repairs and maintenance that our organ will need in the near future.

Now, maybe you're wondering, "How do my gifts and talents fit in our church family, and where do we need volunteers for here at Community of Christ?" well, good news there, too! At our **October 17-18 Festival of Talents** weekend, we'll have displays representing each of the areas of ministry in our congregation so you can learn more about what we do and how you can be a part of it. Think of it like a career fair or college expo but for serving God and God's people—check out the displays for each ministry at Community of Christ and let that help guide where you might serve in the year ahead! It's all about opening up the gifts God has already given us!

And on Sunday, October 18, we'll gather up our commitments of time, talent, and treasure and dedicate them to God for the year ahead in worship. As a special element of worship that day, our shared Youth Group, *Rooted*, will take the lead in many worship roles on that Sunday at the 10:00am service (see more in another article here for details about that)! We hope you'll consider how you can be a part of God's work in this place in the year ahead this fall and join us for this annual event on Festival of Talents weekend!





ANNOUNCEMENTS



UPDATE FROM BRIDGE OF HOPE September 21, 2026

A carload of supplies was delivered to Destinee Chapa at Bridge of Hope in Fremont, Ohio.

So far this year, Destinee has provided 143 laundry baskets filled with supplies to migrant workers. Her goal is to reach 220 baskets, and she continues to see harvesting migrants arriving in the area.

Her biggest needs right now are laundry baskets and new pillows.

Destinee is very appreciative and wishes to acknowledge the continued support of Community of Christ.



Trick or treat, smell the sweets, let's pass out candy for kids to eat! Do you enjoy bringing a smile to the cute little ghouls, goblins, princesses and Bluey characters? Come help the Outreach committee pass out Halloween treats this year! We have 2 local opportunities this month – Thursday, October 29th from 5-7 p.m. in downtown Waterville for Boo-To-Do and then on Saturday, October 31st from 5-6:30 p.m. in downtown Whitehouse. We'll provide the candy; you just need to bring your smile and hands for passing out the treats. Costumes are optional but highly encouraged! The location of our table will be announced closer to the event.

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.

- ❖ 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



FUN
Norf-End Neighbors & Salem Lutheran Church
Annual Trunk-or-Treat
Saturday
October 10, 2026
3pm-5pm
1127 N. Huron St.
Toledo, OH 43604
Food
Fellowship
CANDY

Come and join us for a fun packed afternoon. Any age can receive candy. This is a fun and safe event for everyone. Come and hang out with your neighbors! Everything is free! Cars will be lined up in the parking lot, along with food and beverages for everyone to enjoy!





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rescheduled for October: "Having Hard Conversations" (Oct. 24 at 9:30 a.m.)

Whether it's tackling topics you have been avoiding with family members, striking up a discussion with someone you know you disagree with politically, or working up the courage to reconcile with someone from whom you have been estranged, we all have situations in our lives when we have to have hard conversations. Emotions can run high, we can get nervous, and sometimes we don't know what to say--so we don't say anything. As part of its fall educational focus, the Visitation Ministry invites you to a one-day workshop here at Community of Christ on **Saturday, October 24 from 9:30-11:30a.m.** for an introduction on how we face these situations rather than avoiding or aggravating them. Sign up at the kiosk to let us know if you would like to join us for an important and valuable workshop led by Pastor Steve.



Blue Creek Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing facility, located at 11239 Waterville St. in Whitehouse, is the temporary or permanent home of approximately 85 adults. They have come from Lucas, Wood and Fulton Counties as well as other states. Some receive mail and visits from family and friends. Others seldom or never do! YOU can help Visitation Ministry brighten the days of these residents and let them know that others care. All it takes is sharing a little of your time.

You might like to:

1. Meet at Blue Creek the second Tuesday of each month (10:00-10:30) to join our sing-a-long and short worship time.
2. Become a friend to a resident who would enjoy short visits once or twice a month.
3. Sign a Birthday or Thinking-of-You card found in the gathering space so it can be distributed to a resident.
4. Occasionally join a work session to create craft items such as dining room centerpieces.
5. Pray for the well being of the residents who have had to face change in their lives and now call Blue Creek home and also for the staff, as they face the challenges of caring for residents.





ANNOUNCEMENTS



Blessing of the Animals—October 3 from 10:00-11:00am

Animals are one of the wonders of God's creation, and our pets are especially dear to us as members of our households and families. So, this fall, Community of Christ is once again offering a chance to participate in the tradition of having a Blessing of the Animals as a way of offering specific thanks to God for our pets and asking God's blessing on them. We offered this in the last two years, and it was appreciated by many, both from our congregation and from our neighborhood. If you would like to bring your pet for this experience, we'll be offering a window of time when you can come to the front door of the church building (the doors with the benches) and Pastor Steve will offer prayers of blessing, as well as a special tag that can go on a leash or collar as a reminder of God's love and care for all creatures. The blessing of individual pets doesn't take long (pets tend not to like sit through long sermons), but you can come anytime on the morning of Saturday, October 3, between 10:00-11:00am outside the main entrance to the church. Bring your dog, cat, rabbit, turtle, or whatever other creatures you like, and we'll have a chance one on one to give thanks to God for them and to ask God's blessing on them as well, any time during that hour. We hope you'll take a moment to bring your pets and give thanks to God for the companionship and love they bring into our lives!



Youth Rally Day

We kicked off another year of youth ministry with a great night of food, games, fellowship, and a reminder of the goodness of God! Youth from Community of Christ and Providence gathered together for Rally Day as we celebrated all that God has done through our first full year of youth ministry and looked ahead to the year to come.

It was a fun night filled with plenty of laughter, good food, and time spent building relationships. We are incredibly thankful for the youth who continue to show up, invite their friends, and help make this ministry what it is. We are also grateful for both congregations and the many people who support our youth and make these opportunities possible.

We are looking forward to what God has in store for this next year!



Announcements



Prairie Meadow Update

The Prairie Meadow is full of God's glory with a blaze of fall blooms of asters and sunflowers. The pollinators and birds are happy to take advantage of the plentiful lunch counter that it provides! If you have not had a chance to stop out and enjoy the activity and be inspired by the prayer signs, please take a few moments to take advantage of its offerings. Its path is freshly mown and cut back for your enjoyment!



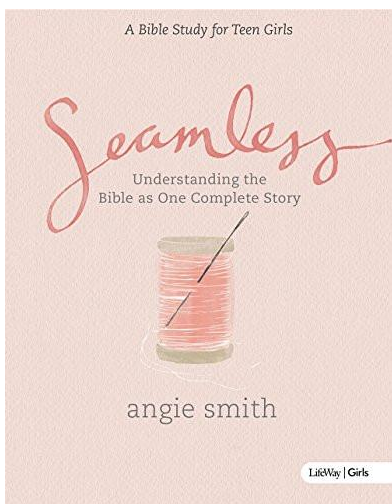
Small white butterfly (*Pieris rapae*) on New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)



Heath aster, New England aster, and Canada Wild Rye



Tall sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*)



Ladies' Bible Study Tuesday October 13th @ 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 November 24th. 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!!



Ladies Lunch 🍕

Friday, October 24 • 11:30 a.m.

Beer Barrel Pizza & Grill – Fallen Timbers

All ladies of the church are welcome! Bring a friend and enjoy some good food and fellowship. Please sign up at the kiosk so we can make reservations. Questions? Contact Becky King at 419-349-7319.

LOVING OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS!



Dear COC family,
Thank You so much for the cookies!
They are delicious and greatly appreciated
as I finish my last Year of School at BG.
Love and Blessings,
Kyle



Dear Friends & family at
Community of Christ,
thank you so much for
the cookies before I head back
to Miami. I'm so lucky to
have such a thoughtful
community to look up to.
I appreciate it so much.
Much love, Anna Rasmussen



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS!



Beloveds at Community of Christ,
It was such a gift to gather with
you again for Toledo Pride 2020! Thank
you for all the ways you are living
into inclusion and loving our lord - you
make a big difference! We are Better
Together!
Peace &
Pastor Melanie



Our Material
Girls are
laying out a
pattern for
another
quilt—thanks
for your
amazing
creativity
and care!



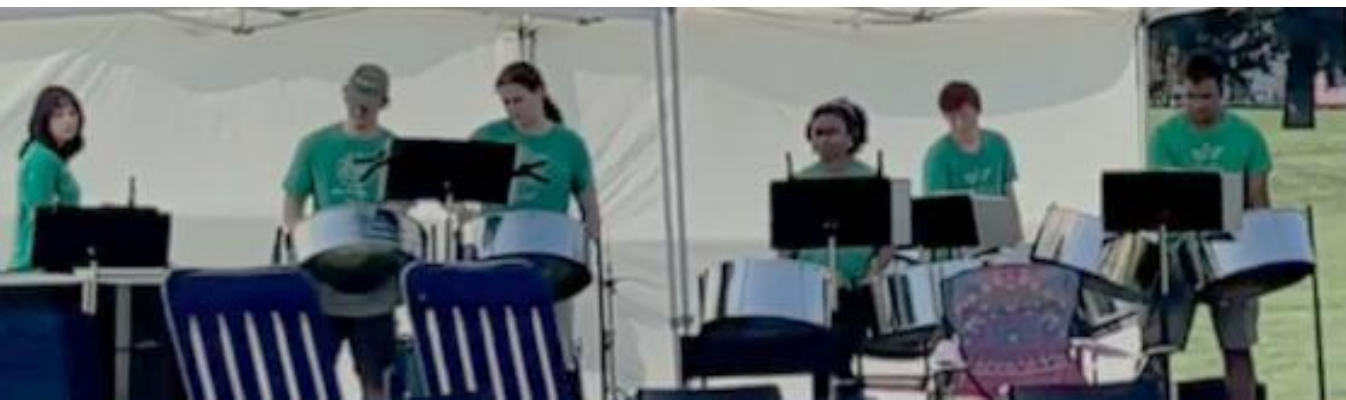
A big THANK YOU
to everyone who
helped fill **62**
school kits for
LWR! 🎒✏️ It was
especially wonderful
to see our kiddos
pitching in and
helping, too! What a
great team effort ❤️



Thanks to our friends who joined us at
Blue Creek Nursing Home for a hymn
sing with some old favorites!



FRIENDS, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP!



FRIENDS, FAITH, & FELLOWSHIP!

Every September, the people of
Community of Christ gather outside
for **Blue Jean Sunday**...





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.
Aug	\$11,623	\$12,563	(\$940)
YTD	\$103,253	\$103,054	\$199
2026 General Fund			
	Income	Expense	Diff.
Aug	\$35,996	\$32,767	\$3,229
YTD	\$295,071	\$310,710	(\$15,639)

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



Brian Smucker	10/01
Jillian Dewitz	10/01
Lawrence Mustafaga	10/01
Lydia Smucker	10/01
Debbie Warner	10/02
Mary Jo Bright	10/02
Paula Gruhler	10/02
James Fischer	10/03
Graham Smigelski	10/07
Nadine Wise	10/07
Robyn Spilker	10/07
Kyle Gebhart	10/08

Heather Boytim	10/09
Matthew Davis	10/09
Emily Steinman	10/11
Sharon Bucher	10/13
Alicia Lipinski	10/14
Dawn Ray	10/14
Joshua Hartbarger	10/14
Neil Nutter	10/14
Richard Knight	10/14
Douglas Ackerman	10/15
Dean Nofzinger	10/16
Maggie Meyers	10/18

Carol Heuerman	10/19
Luke Rardin	10/19
Natalie Dewitz	10/19
Andrew Carman	10/20
Connie Hudson	10/20
Doris Disher	10/22
James Matthews	10/22
Ellen Nowak	10/23
Evonne Johnson	10/26
Marek Boytim	10/26
Flo Hannum	10/29
John Cedargren	10/30



Congratulations to our Wayne King!!! AW Free Press "In what was a complete surprise to him, Whitehouse resident Wayne King recently was honored as the Veteran Supporter of the Year during the **Task Force 20** awards banquet."



From Bridge of Hope, and the Communities we serve, I want to extend our deepest gratitude. Without your continued support none of this would be possible.

Thank you
for all your support
Destine Chapman



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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